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Blow for future of libraries as council slashes funding by 22 per cent in budget

BRIDGEND County Borough Council, which has suffered a 3.3 per cent cut in real terms in its budget, is cutting 20 per cent from the funding of its library service.

The cut to library funding was originally set at about six per cent in the draft budget which was produced in November.

But when the final budget came before cabinet on Tuesday, an additional cut was included that will take the overall drop in funding for libraries to more than 20 per cent.

Library services have taken the biggest hit in this budget and officers stated that the extra reduction for the service would mean the loss of more libraries.

It had already been decided to close three valley libraries – at Caerau, Nantymoel and Blaengarw. The mobile library routes have been altered to include extra visits to these areas.

Officers have warned that making this cut would also reduce public access to ICT, as all libraries now have computers.

The council will also fail to meet the Welsh Public Libraries Standard.

by JAYNE ISAAC

Overall, the Well Being sector of the council, which includes libraries, has suffered a 6.2 per cent cut, which is the average cut across all departments, although some departments have had an increase including adult social care and children.

The council has approved an overall budget of £232.957,000. This is £200,000 more than was proposed in the draft budget in November.

But in the financial year 2010-11, which ends on March 31, the council is expected to have spent £233,894,000.

The new budget includes £3.5m for increases in pay and prices, with a further £2.9m for various budget pressures. This leaves spending of £232,957 after rejigging of spending between various departments.

Having the budget at that level means council tax will rise by almost £40 at Band D. This will take council tax up to £1,096.95p.

The Police precept and the precept from the relevant town or community council have to be added to that figure to give the final total that council taxpayers will have to find.

Householders with properties in higher bands will pay a higher amount while those in lower bands will pay a lower.

The cut in funding from the Assembly to the council of 1.4 per cent is the same as the Welsh average. The council gets funding of £1,310 per head – £10 per head below the Welsh average.

Officers say that the cut in real terms is 3.3 per cent.

Other proposals approved within the budget include:

- A 10p increase in school meals. The possibility of charging pupils for music lessons is also to be investigated.
- Cutting the £20,000 grant to the Homestart charity, which means that its operations in Bridgend and Pencoed will have to cease unless alternative funding can be found
- Switching off every other street light from midnight to 5am except in areas where anti social behaviour has been a problem; also where the council's CCTV cameras would be adversely affected.

(STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Porthcawl students raise cash for LATCH



ABOVE: Sandra Owen from LATCH with the pupils.

SIXTH Form students from Porthcawl Comprehensive School handed over a cheque for £300 to Sandra Owen, representing the charity 'LATCH' (originally Llandough Aims to Treat Children with Cancer and Leukaemia with Hope, but now based at the new Children's Hospital in Cardiff).

LATCH provides care and support to parents and young people who are affected by cancer and leukaemia.

The money had been raised by pupils at the close of 2010 through a series of voluntary activities.

Students who are members of the 'Head Team' at the school explained the special affection that the LATCH charity held for them through their association with former pupils and local families helped by the organisation.

The students revealed that they planned future support for the charity by organising a no uniform day on April 15, 2011.

At the handover event in the school library, Sandra Owen explained that the LATCH charity had its roots in Porthcawl, before becoming embedded in the wider health trust area.

She welcomed the enriched links with Porthcawl Comprehensive, not least because of pupil connections to affected families.

MAESGWYN HOSPITAL CLOSURE WILL HELP FUND CARE HOME

– health board chiefs tell public meeting in Bryneithin

A PUBLIC meeting in Bryncethin heard that the money saved by closing Maesgwyn hospital would be redirected into providing better care for people in their own homes.

Report by JAYNE ISAAC

Paul Stauber, director of planning for the ABM local health board said that since the closure of Morlais ward a few weeks ago, when patients had been transferred to the new, purpose-built Angelton Clinic at Glanrhyd Hospital, there was only one ward left at the hospital.

Teilo ward has 20 beds including four beds used to provide respite care.

Dorothy Edwards, locality director for both the board and BCBC, said that there was a need to improve the way that respite care is delivered as it was often inappropriate for young respite patients to be located in four bedded bays, often with elderly people with different needs.

There was also the risk of infection.

In all, 19 people use the respite beds at Maesgwyn and all the patients and families have been spoken to in a bid to assess needs and options.

The board will provide respite care from the end of February in either residential or nursing homes in the area and it will remain free for the patient.

The other patients accommodated at Maesgwyn are mainly people who have been assessed as needing long-term care and are waiting to move on to either a nursing or care home.

There has been an issue with people staying at Maesgwyn for longer than necessary – because of delays in putting a care package together for them.

She said that Maesgwyn was a nurse-led hospital and only had a weekly doctor's round.

There were no diagnostic or support services on site.

At present, there are 13 long-term patients at Maesgwyn and they and their families have also been spoken to.

Efforts are being made to manage their discharge and make suitable arrangements. If some need on-going NHS care, they will be transferred to a hospital setting.

Alex Howells, director of primary care and mental health services, stated that the changes were driven by a different rationale which attempts to prevent people from coming into hospital at all in the first place – and, if they are admitted, to getting them home as soon as possible by providing a suitable package of care.

She said that care packages are tailored to the needs of the patients. The board has invested £1.2m into community care and this has started to impact on the use of hospital services.

"Hospitals are not always the best places to care for people.

"We have to look at the shape of the services we provide and make sure that we have the right workforce."

As a result of problems in recruiting doctors to ABM, medical expertise had to be focused on a small number of hospital sites – in Princess of Wales and Maesteg Hospitals.

It was decided to keep Maesgwyn open and divert people there from POW, doctors would also have to be diverted away to treat them, leaving the other hospitals short.

She said that it was not a matter of providing hospital beds any more – but of putting the right care in place to suit each patient.

Dorothy Edwards stated that closing Maesgwyn would free up resources to improve the community services available.

This service is known as CISS – the Community Integrated Intermediate Service – which only operates five days a week at present but there is also emergency cover if needed out of hours.

The 70-strong team, led by a consultant, includes nurses, physios, other therapists and care assistants. It can be called in by GPs to treat sick people at home and avoid them going into hospital.

It also provides a reablement service for people when they come out of hospital and care packages last up to 12 weeks.

Paul Stauber explained that they wanted to get away from hospital-led approaches to care and focus on providing care to people at home: "The clinical view is that going into hospital is the worst thing for a patient.

"We need to keep people at home and ensure that we put the resources in. It's about providing care for people in a different way."

There will be no redundancies among the 23-strong workforce and all permanent staff will be redeployed.

"They have skills that we need," said Dorothy Edwards.

"We want to put more investment into the community services."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

Vale man a victim of 'reckless US homicide'

THE family of a Penarth man has seen a man in the United States cleared of his murder, but convicted of reckless manslaughter and weapons offences.

Lavern Ritch, aged 37, was on holiday in New Jersey in 2007 when he was stabbed by 49-year-old Robert Davies.

Davies claimed he had acted in self-defence because he thought Mr Ritch was part of group out to hurt or kill him.

However, the court heard that Mr Ritch had held up his hands and told Davies he was trying to help him.

Davies, who is yet to be sentenced, faces up to 10 years in jail.



Cyber warfare and seeing how to cope with fear of drowning on a simulated naval defence exercise

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive report from Westminster for GEM readers



WHAT is the most dangerous thing I have done recently? My last article detailed the Defence Select Committees visit to Afghanistan, this one will detail more defence visits.

The first was for discussions between the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Defence and Security Committee and the US Government. We discussed Afghanistan, ballistic missile defence and cyber warfare.

The agenda was packed with meetings in the Pentagon, Missile Defence Agency, Senate and House of Representatives and think tanks, before visiting a range of cutting edge US navy ships.

Representing NATO were 32 MPs from 20 NATO counties, four of us from the UK. Security measures were high as we entered all of the buildings – mobile phones and camera removed and often meetings in sound proofed rooms. Washington was the city outside of the bus we glimpsed as we moved between meetings.

Afghanistan discussions focused on the difficult task of moving towards transitioning responsibility from ISAF forces to the Afghan Government on a province-by-province basis.

There was also considerable discussion on life after 2014/15 when the Afghan Government will take full control of the country and the ISAF forces will remain in a training role.

The question then to be asked is about the role and structure of NATO's forces post 2015.

Cyber warfare is seen as a major threat in the years ahead. Our increased reliance on computer databases and networks in a globalised economy poses potential high level risks to us as individuals, as nations and as NATO allies.

As individuals we know about risky emails, internet banking, computer virus and hacking. At national, regional and international level these threats are magnified.

There is little chance to know where an attack has come from or who the enemy is, where it is another state or international criminal gangs.

Ballistic missile defence is growing in importance as nuclear expansion is seen as a potential source of future threat. Missile defence is expensive and with many new Tea Party Republican senators it was important to hear from them how they viewed defence spending in the future.

Interestingly, while security was tight in Washington once we climbed on board the ships to view the new developments, cameras and phones were allowed everywhere.

Back in the UK, these themes were taken forward again when I travelled to Plymouth, with the Defence Committee, to look at our navy and how it is coping with defence cuts. In America I had met with shock at the range and size of the cuts made.

Here in the UK there has been a determination to do the best with the hand that has been dealt. There is a great deal of concern about cuts to pay and allowance and rightly so. Personnel will be reduced to 29,000.

Harrier planes and the Ark Royal are gone, amphibious capability is reduced and only 19 frigates and destroyers and 14 mine sweepers will remain in service by 2020.

Plymouth Devonport is the largest naval base in western Europe. In the dark, we climbed down a muddy slope to waiting hovercrafts to take us onto *HMS Albion*. The ship was on dark running, no lights were showing and most lights were dimmed inside the ship.

Climbing up and down ship's ladders in the dark was an experience. I admit to preferring the stairs used by marines, carrying heavy packs they use wide stairs rather than vertical ladders.

HMS Albion is a landing platform dock used to carry and land the Navy's amphibious task force, equipment and vehicles. The vehicle deck is huge and capable of holding a variety of vehicle and trailers, including tanks and landing craft.

The front of the vehicle deck opens to allow direct access into the sea or onto shore. The flight deck can operate two helicopters at a time, with a third aircraft parked.

We slept on board overnight, leaving early the next morning as the weather closed in – we may not have got off once the ship was out in the channel.

We visited *HMS Raleigh* the initial training school for naval ratings and reservists. Watching navy reservists on exercise in a simulator containing damage to a ship that had suffered torpedo attacks was stunning.

Imagine climbing down into a rolling metal space with water gushing through holes in the side, as the water fills and the space hatch covers and equipment disappear below the water.

Working as a team, your job is to stem the powerful jets of water pouring in threatening to sink the ship. As the water rises, you struggle to keep your feet and control your fear of drowning as the water edges towards the ceiling, knowing you are in the bowels of the ship.

To say I was impressed is to put it lightly. I watched as a petite young woman took a leadership role and battled the water, to plug the gaping holes. Her day job is as a railway ticket inspector.

Finally, we visited *HMS Turbulent*, a nuclear submarine whose crew face extended nine month deployments to save the nuclear core alongside pay and allowance cuts.

Nine months away from family, mostly without sunlight and confined in tight restricted space with bunks shared between shifts. We owe them all a great deal.

Back to my first question about the most dangerous thing I have done recently. Well, in terms of harm and injury, it was definitely putting out my recycling!

Running back and forth with my boxes and bags I went flying and am now typing with my swollen hand in a splint. So beware of recycling, I find it's a dangerous activity.

Talk on quilting

MYNYDD CYNFFIG WI

ON February 8, at Pisgah Chapel Vestry, 36 members of the WI met for their monthly meeting, when the first hour was taken with branch business and plans for many branch and federation activities during the coming spring.

The speaker was Mrs Gayney Jones, from Margam village, who entertained members with a spontaneous and lively talk about her passion and interest in patchwork and quilting.

Mrs Jones had won a spectacular quilt during a visit to Birmingham NEC and had brought the quilt for us to see.

It was a wonderful piece of handwork and something to treasure forever.

Mrs Eirwen de Vries gave the vote of thanks and refreshments were served.

On February 22 at St Theodore's Church, Father Jonathon Hurley will rededicate the Mynydd Cynffig WI banner.

PORTHCAWL ROTARY CLUB CELEBRATES FESTIVE SUCCESS

THE Rotary Club of Porthcawl held its first fundraising event of 2011 when supporters were invited to a Race Night on January 24 at the Hi Tide Inn.

This has become a regular event eagerly awaited by Rotarians and their supporters. Great fun was the object of the exercise, along with a successful fundraising effort.

The end of 2010 was marked with a new fundraising event, as well as the usual annual events. At the end of 2010, the Rotary Club, in conjunction with All Saints Church, introduced the Christmas Tree Festival to the town for the first time.

This was well supported and the venue has already been booked again for the festival to take place in December 2012.

A spokesman for the club said: "The residents of and visitors to Porthcawl are always most generous throughout the year. However at Christmastime they all seem to excel themselves when the Carolcade goes by or the street collection is in full swing."

He added a "very big thank you" to residents and visitors at Porthcawl for supporting the events.

Pensioner's warm hospitality for Assembly's First Minister

BRIDGEND pensioner, Mrs Marian Powis, recently had a VIP visit from First Minister for Wales, Carwyn Jones, as part of Fuel Poverty Awareness Day.

The event, led by campaigning charity National Energy Action Cymru, raised awareness of fuel poverty, the effects it has on over 320,00 households across Wales, and the help and support available.

The pensioner qualified for a HEES grant to have her central heating system replaced after her old boiler broke down and couldn't be fixed. She also received energy efficiency advice aimed at keeping her safe and warm throughout the winter, a spokesperson explained.

Mrs Powis, who is 77, said: "The work done has been fantastic. The house has benefited from the installation of a replacement gas boiler, and I have been given some useful energy advice to help me stay warm, healthy and out of debt.

"The heating doesn't need to be on long before it gets the whole house warm and it stays warm. I couldn't believe it at first when they said it was free."

Carwyn Jones, who is also the Assembly Member for Bridgend, said: "It was delightful meeting with Mrs Powis today and hearing about her experiences.

"The Welsh Assembly Government recognises the need to help low income and vulnerable groups keep their homes warm at an affordable cost and the vital health benefits this can bring which is why I welcome and support NEA's Fuel Poverty Awareness Day.

"It is vital that people understand the importance of keeping safe and well during the winter and I would urge them to find out more about the help that is available from the Welsh Government and energy suppliers."

NEA Cymru Director Nuria Zolle said: "Living in a cold, damp home can lead to a number of physical and mental health issues and exacerbates respiratory and coronary problems, which can be fatal.

"We're using this year's Fuel Poverty Awareness Day to draw attention to the health effects of living in a cold home."

NEA is urging people who are worried about their energy bills to call the Home Heat Helpline (0800 33 66 99) where they can access a range of help and support from a variety of sources including energy companies.



ABOVE: Mrs Marian Powis with First Minister Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 24)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
17 Thur	05.27	9.5	17.49	9.5
18 Fri	06.12	10.1	18.40	10.2
19 Sat	07.01	10.5	19.22	10.4
20 Sun	07.41	10.8	19.59	10.6
21 Mon	08.24	10.7	20.39	10.2
22 Tues	09.05	10.4	21.26	9.8
23 Wed	09.48	9.7	22.08	9.2
24 Thur	10.31	8.9	22.49	8.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Wales spends **MORE** than England on treating cancer'

I WAS disappointed to read the column by Alun Cairns MP /AM in your paper on January 20 about access to cancer drugs in Wales.

His comments will worry patients unnecessarily, but sadly is the type of irresponsible nonsense he seems to excel in.

We do not see a need for such a separate cancer drug fund in Wales, as all new drugs that are deemed clinically and cost effective by NICE or the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group are provided on the NHS.

Where these drugs are not approved, or are waiting approval, mechanisms are in place to ensure consistent access for patients in exceptional circumstances.

In Wales, we spend £19.70 more per head of population on treating cancer than in England.

The additional cancer drug fund announced by the UK Government will only increase the amount spent in England by about £4 per head - still well short of the amount spent in Wales.

We are maintaining our investment in the health service in cash terms over the next three years – despite the impact of the UK Government's cuts to the Welsh budget.

By 2013/14, the Welsh Assembly Government's total annual budget will have been reduced by £1.8bn. Despite this, we will continue to invest 40 per cent of our revenue budget - by far the largest single budget - in health and social services, in order to protect the most vulnerable in society.

As a Government, we are committed to tackling inequality.

Free prescriptions removes the unfairness in the previous system where people with conditions like heart disease, high blood pressure, or those who have had an organ transplant were not entitled to free prescriptions, despite being able to benefit significantly from them.

Likewise, car parking charges fall heavily on people frequently attending NHS hospitals, whether they are patients, staff or visitors. They are at best an inconvenience and at worst an unfair tax on ill-health.

If patients are able to get the treatment they need, it will ultimately help to reduce the long term cost to the health service.

Thanks to investment in earlier diagnosis and treatment through more screening and new equipment, and prevention through education and awareness, more people are now surviving longer with cancer.

That's the truth of the matter – and perhaps Mr Cairns would like to join me in celebrating that fact!

EDWINA HART AM
Minister for Health and Social Services

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Emergency services join the Safer Porthcawl partnership

by JAYNE ISAAC

SAFER Porthcawl is the name of a new initiative set up between police, fire service, ambulance service and the coastguard.

Carl Evans of the Fire Service told Porthcawl Town Council that the initiative comes under the auspices of the Safer Bridgend Partnership. Everyone will work together for a safer Porthcawl.

He said that work had already been done with older pupils of Porthcawl Comprehensive and St Clare's School on road accidents.

They have also completed an exercise to warn of the dangers of going onto the ice when ponds freeze over.

"Before Christmas, ponds at the Wilderness and also Kenfig Pool froze over and there were reports of children skating on Kenfig Pool. We are trying to warn youngsters of the dangers," he added.

He invited Porthcawl Town Council to nominate a member to sit on the committee and Coun Chris Smart said that this was a good idea. He proposed discussing it at the next meeting.

Coun Gerald Davies welcomed the new partnership, which he said operated on a strategic level.

Coun Norah Clarke also welcomed the idea and said that the dangers of people falling through the ice need to be highlighted, but pointed out that no councillor could be appointed until the council's annual meeting, under existing protocol.

Coun Smart suggested that while the annual meeting would need to discuss this, someone could be asked to attend pro tem until a permanent delegate can be appointed.

It was agreed to ask Mayor Mary Emment Lewis to attend the next meeting.

Llangeinor man jailed after repeat petrol station thefts

by AJ SICLUNA

A BRIDGEND motorist who repeatedly made off from petrol stations without paying in the Bridgend and Maesteg areas, has been sentenced to 20-weeks imprisonment at Cardiff Crown Court..

Gareth Harding (33) of Llangeinor, Bridgend, had pleaded guilty before Vale Magistrates to three charges of making off without paying for petrol.

He also asked the court to take into consideration five further offences of making off without paying for petrol.

He was also in breach of a 32-week suspended sentence for affray.

Prosecutor Laurence Jones said the affray occurred at the Roof Club, Bridgend, when fighting broke out. Two men were attacked by the defendant and another man, and one was punched and kicked while on the ground.

Mr Jones said he made off without paying for petrol worth over £200 and each time he was inevitably spotted on closed circuit TV.

He later said he had been short of money and "thought he would get away with it."

Suzanne Thomas, his counsel, said: "He knows he has no-one to blame but himself."

She said he failed to carry out an unpaid work for the community order because he had been carrying out groundwork in Newcastle. He said he wished to repay the garages for the petrol.

Judge David Winn Morgan said: "I'm afraid custody is inevitable."

Primary school re-organisation goes ahead after consultation

PROPOSALS to extend the catchment areas of two borough primary schools have been approved by BCBC cabinet members.

A two-month public consultation on plans to close Pandy Infants and allocate its catchment area to nearby Tondu Primary brought no objections.

Cabinet agreed that Pandy should now close at the end of August this year, and reopen as part of Tondu in September until a time when the school can operate on a single site.

A consultation on plans to close Heol-y-Cyw Primary School and change the catchment area of Pencoed Primary, but maintain provision on the Heol-y-Cyw site for up to three years also brought no objections.

Now cabinet have approved plans to make the Heol-y-Cyw site part of an enlarged Pencoed Primary until the end of the summer term 2014, or sooner if the new Pencoed Primary can be built in the next three years. The position will be reviewed in the future if the start date for building a replacement school remains uncertain.

Coun Alana Davies, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "I'm pleased that we are able to move forward with these plans which are such a key part of our school modernisation programme.

"We have consulted extensively with the community and have held many meetings to find a sensible and positive solution for all the children in the affected schools. We fully expect this to be a smooth transition with minimal disruption, and we will now be working closely with the four schools to ensure this is the case."

Caerau gets the BMX factor!

BCBC cabinet members have given the go-ahead for a new BMX track to be developed in the Llynfi Valley.

They agreed to grant a 30-year lease to Caerau Development Trust to develop part of the council-owned Coegnant Colliery Land Reclamation Scheme.

Grant funding is being sought as part of the Welsh Assembly Government's Western Valleys Strategic Regeneration Area programme.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for resources, said: "This is a really exciting development for Caerau.

Not only will it be used by BMX enthusiasts in the Llynfi Valley and the wider borough, I fully expect this to become a major tourism asset which may well draw visitors from across south Wales.

"I'm delighted that part of the former Coegnant Colliery site is being put to such positive use, and is a great example of the authority working with partners like the Caerau Development Trust, to create a sustainable project which meets community need and is community led."

Operation Magnitude: police in drugs swoop

SOUTH WALES POLICE arrested 14 people and summonsed another nine to appear in court following a day of action against drugs in Bridgend and the Vale last week.

Detective Inspector Huw Thomas of Barry CID said that Operation Magnitude was implemented to pro-actively target the use and supply of illegal drugs in the two county boroughs.

Drugs including amphetamine, valium, cannabis, and diazepam were seized by officers as well as £1,375 in cash: "Officers from Neighbourhood Policing Teams, CID, PCSOs and the force tactical unit worked together, acting on information and intelligence provided by the local community.

The areas targeted are also linked with occurrences of anti-social behaviour which is having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of residents," he explained.

"Serious drug use has a direct effect on crime, as users frequently need to commit crime in order to support their daily habits."

Anyone with information about drug use or trafficking can call South Wales Police by dialling 101 or calling Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

The Wales Drug and Alcohol Helpline (0808 141 0044) is a free and bilingual telephone drugs helpline providing a single point of contact for anyone in Wales wanting further information or help relating to drugs or alcohol.

This service is available to individuals, their families, or carers wanting advice or support.

CHURCH CELEBRATES CANDLEMASS AT KENFIG



PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

THE Feast of Candlemass, the presentation of Christ in the Temple, was celebrated in St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill, at a family service on Sunday, February 6.

The Rev Jonathan Durley officiated and ensured that everyone had a Christingle.



ABOVE:
Young members of the congregation with the finished Christingles.

RIGHT:
Everyone is hard at work making the Christingles for the service.



Council's plan to attract tourists

AN action plan aimed at bringing thousands more visitors to Bridgend county borough over the next five years has been rubber-stamped by the BCBC cabinet.

The tourism strategy aims to "develop a thriving visitor economy which celebrates the unique strengths of the place, supports jobs, generates business opportunities and improves the range of amenities available for visitors and local people".

Cabinet member heard how the local tourism industry is already worth £246 million to the local economy, attracting more than 3.5 million visitors per annum and generating 4,238 jobs.

The strategy will aim to raise the profile of the area, celebrate its diversity and heritage, and involve community groups and the local tourism industry in its development.

As well as agreeing to formally adopt the strategy, cabinet members gave the go ahead for establishing a new 'Bridgend Tourism Partnership' to steer it.

A formal launch of the strategy will now take place.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for resources, said: "Bridgend county borough has a lot to offer and we are developing more unique selling points to attract visitors and tourists into the area."

Island farm decision deferred

BRIDGEND Town Council has deferred making a decision on the Island Farm sports complex until it has received a report from the highways department, which will spell out the implications on the local highway network.

The town council held a special meeting to discuss the plan but members felt that without this crucial document, they could make no decision one way or the other about the scheme, which entails large scale provision of sporting and leisure facilities on land at the old Island Farm prisoner of war camp.

BCBC planners are due to hold a special meeting next week to make a decision on the plan, submitted by HD developments but The GEM understands that this may also have to be postponed if the highway report is not completed in time.

Cheques are handed over to good causes

NEWS FROM PORTHCAWL TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

THE chairman welcomed everyone and thanked vice-chairman Shirley for standing in for her at the last meeting.

A cheque for £140 was presented to Rev Marja Fipse for the parish of Newton Nottage, to purchase new altar clothes at All Saints church.

The coffee morning was a success and raised £72.

Beryl Jones gave the South Wales Federation report and announced that a cheque for £100 was being donated to 'Help for Heroes'.

The federation is holding an arts and crafts exhibition/competition and members are very enthusiastic about the outcome. It is on March 5 at Whitchurch.

A report was given from the twin guild at Mansfield and we hope to meet up at our conference in Birmingham.

Cath Davies, our resident tea lady, thanked everyone for the flowers and cake and good wishes on her special birthday. We had a nice letter from Kerry Phillips after we had presented a cheque of £660 to the Alzheimer's Society in January.

Having covered all our usual business, our speaker Mr Ken Watts, introduced and entertained us with 'a Policeman's Lot.' It was very well put together with humour and sadness.

The next meeting will be on March 9, when we will have our yellow sales table.

It starts at 2pm and all are welcome to join us and enjoy a cup of tea. Betty Smith will entertain us!

DR

'THE BEST SCHOOL REPORT WE HAVE EVER ACHIEVED!' says delighted Headteacher

Tynyrheol Primary soars to new heights of achievement

LLANGEINOR'S Tynyrheol Primary School has come through its latest inspection with flying colours, judged to be good in all areas examined when the team of four Estyn inspectors spent three days at the school in November.

Headteacher Martin Griffiths said: "The inspectors 'report is the best the school has ever received and is a credit to everyone involved – all our staff, our PTFA, parents and especially our children, of whom we are justly proud."

The inspectors' judgment interprets 'good' as meaning that the school has "many strengths and no important areas requiring improvement."

Tynyrheol has made huge improvements since its centenary in 2000 with better facilities throughout, including its own computer suite, better playgrounds, touch-screen interactive white boards and other refinements that have improved facilities for teaching and learning.

The inspectors noted: "In comparison to similar schools, results were in the top 25 per cent. By year-6 pupils apply their skills in numeracy effectively in other subjects; for example, in history when looking at life in World War Two.

"Many pupils achieve well in ICT and use their knowledge and understanding to interpret and present data and to make presentations. They find out information readily for themselves using ICT confidently."

The inspectors' report judges Llangeinor to be "a caring community where pupils enjoy coming to school, wish to help each other, feel completely safe, lead healthy lifestyles and help to promote this with other pupils."

The report also decides that the school provides a good range of enriching learning experiences which meet the needs of of all learners, noting that teachers' planning includes clearly defined areas for the development of subjects and key skills.

The report says: "Across the school, lessons are nearly always lively and stimulating and there are high expectations for all."

Furthermore, the report praises the fact that new strategies are being developed appropriately across the school to encourage pupil to assess their own progress and that of others: "These are beginning to have a positive impact on pupils' understanding of what they need to do to improve," it adds.

On the subject of the school's leadership, the report states: "The headteacher leads the school well and has succeeded in developing a hard-working team who share strong commitment to the school.

"They have high expectations of themselves and of each other. The senior management team (the head teacher and his deputy) has a clear picture of where they wish to take the school in future and the means of getting there."

The report also states: "The governing body is well led and is heavily committed to the school. It is mindful of its responsibilities and correctly works alongside the professional leadership to hold it constructively to account. It is well informed about the school's everyday life and about the standards achieved."

On the subject of the inspectors' questionnaire to parents, the report states: "Overall, they expressed positive views of the school. All felt that their children liked the school and made good progress. They believed that their children were well behaved. All thought that the teaching was good and staff had high expectations."

Similarly a questionnaire to children found that, "all felt safe in school and were well supported and helped to make progress. They thought that homework was helping them to understand and to improve their work."

Chairman of governors, Michael Meredith, said: "This inspectors' report reflects huge credit on the headteacher and on the staff at every level throughout the school. There is no doubting that Tynyrheol Primary is now where every governor wants it to be – making measurable progress in all spheres.

"Under its constructive teaching plan, it has become a truly positive and enriching place."

VA NEWMAN GLASS QUIZ LEAGUE

Big win for Nomads but Llangewydd stay top of First Division

AS a result of matches played on Monday, February 7, positions in the First Division are unchanged but in Division Two there are a number of changes.

In Division One, Llangewydd Arms go charging on towards their first title, although they were given a stern test by Tyrisha Royals, who kept them within reach before going down 50-45.

Their nearest challengers, Royal Oak Nomads, had a surprisingly large win against Mackworth Arms by 57-35. Mackworth have had good scores for much of the season but in their last couple of games they have slumped somewhat.

Oldcastle 'A' are still up there with an outside chance and this week won 46-37 at Coychurch Wanderers.

Llynfi Arms won 45-38 against Laleston Inn 'A', but Tondu Railway Club just cannot break the ice, this week losing 44-42 at home to Maesteg Catholic Club.

In Division Two, the leaders Six Bells had a rare reversal of fortune, going down by 45-39 away to Laleston Inn 'B', so their lead at the top is down to four points.

Pheasant Gamekeepers head the chasing pack of five, after winning 41-34 at Heol-y-Cyw RFC. Then comes Laleston Inn 'B' who are closely followed by three teams on 14 points, six behind the leaders.

They are Cabo Roche, whose 39-38 win consigned Oldcastle 'B' to bottom spot, Llangeinor AFC, who lost at home to Oddfellows Arms by 43-34 and Pheasant Poachers who defeated Pyle RFC 45-35.

Here are your four from recent games:

1. Which motorway runs from Cambridge to London?

2. In mythology, which son of Zeus was immersed up to his neck in water which he could not drink and surrounded by fruits which were eternally out of reach?

3. Which former footballer has trained *Youmzain* into second place in three successive Prix de L'Arc de Triomphes?

4. Which composer was the son-in-law of Franz Lizst?

A RUDGE
(League Hon sec)

ANSWERS:
1. M11.
2. Tantalus.
3. Mick Channon.
4. Richard Wagner.

Operation Raven targets town

BRIDGEND Neighbourhood Policing Team was joined by Bridgend and Barry Response Teams and Barry NPT, in the fight against late night crime and disorder in Bridgend town centre,

Operation Raven officers provided "high visibility and reassurance" within the town and reported only three arrests last Friday and Saturday.

Four ASBO referrals were issued and three individuals were stopped and searched, a spokesman reported.

Branch looks forward to a pancake evening!

SKER WI NEWS

THE Sker WI met on February 10 at St David's Church Hall, Nottage, when president, Nina Charlesworth welcomed 50 members and a visitor.

She extended a special welcome to the former members of Nottage WI and reported that Sker darts team would be taking part in the Glamorgan Federation of WIs tournament on Saturday, February 19 at Llanharry Working Men's Club.

Nina wished them success in the tournament and hoped they would triumph over all other teams!

On March 7, at 8pm, Sker will hold a 'pancake evening', with proceeds in aid of the Porthcawl RNLI. Pancakes and tea or coffee will be served. This social evening will include games of Bingo and a short Beetle Drive. Everyone is welcome; entrance £1, inclusive of refreshments.

The speaker for the evening was Mr David Allen, whose talk 'Everest Base Camp Trek' was illustrated with photographs taken by Mr Allen en route.

While out in Nepal, he was impressed by the people, as well as the grandeur of the Himalayas and set up a charity to fund the education of one boy.

Members were given the chance to view some amazing scenery and some unexpected flora found during the walk.

They showed their appreciation of Mr Allen's talk by organising a collection, raising £60 for the charity.

Next month's meeting will be on Thursday, March 10, at 7pm at St David's Hall, Nottage. The speaker will be Mr Charles, and the title of his talk is 'Diamonds'.

For further information, phone secretary Cynthia Sidey on 01656 786218. **BG**

FUN HALF-TERM DAYS ...with a purpose

BTCV (British Trust for *Conservation Volunteers) and Communities First are holding two family fun and information days during half term week.*

***They take place on Tuesday,** February 22, between 11am and 3pm, at The Precinct, Wildmill, Bridgend; and on Thursday, February 24, between 11am-3pm, at Gibbons Way, North Cornelly, Bridgend.*

Free fun for the kids includes circus skills, face painting, crafts, go karts and other activities. Parents have the chance to gain information on employment, debt advice and benefits they may be entitled to.

There will be a free hog roast for all adults who register with BTCV's family employment initiative, and they can speak to local employers about jobs available.

For more details, contact Adrian Morgan on 01656 749153 or call into the Communities 1st office in Wildmill or Cornelly.

How Porthcawl choir gave Marcia a new lease of life...

PORTHCAWL Choral Society is looking to recruit new members at Monday rehearsals in Trinity church from 7.15pm-9.15pm.

"There are no restrictions on age....if you can hold a tune then age is no concern, young or old or just young at heart, everyone will be welcome. We need more ladies and we really need a few more men" said spokeswoman Marcia Jeffry.

"Many years ago I sang a lot, in many places. But marriage and children and health put a stop to it all for many years. In fact, I lost my singing voice completely for a very long time after having two heart attacks.

"It started to come back, but not as it was. However, one of my daughters joined this choir and talked me into joining too because she knew how much I missed singing 'properly' rather than just humming!

"So, even though my voice was quite weak at first, poor and rusty as all get out in fact! But I soon started to sound good again. Now I am prepared to tackle anything and it has given me a new lease of life".

Police hunt Kenfig burglar

POLICE are investigating a burglary at a house in Bryndu Road, Kenfig Hill between 2am and 7.30am on Friday, February 4, when the occupant's purse, a black Samsung digital camera, and a mountain bike worth around £1,000 were stolen.

Detective Constable James Rees from Porthcawl CID said: "I am appealing for any information with regard to this crime. The bicycle is a very distinctive model and is white, with the Marin name in black on the frame.

"While a burglary can be a very distressing experience for anyone, I would like to reassure residents that in the past year, house burglaries have fallen by 10.2 per cent in the Bridgend area."

Anyone with any information with regard to this incident is asked to contact DC James Rees at Porthcawl CID on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



ABOVE: Do you recognise this 2008 Marin Quad 140?

Question time in Bridgend

'SUSTAINABLE WALES' is holding a referendum and election 'Question Time' at the Evergreen Hall, Angel Street, Bridgend, at 8pm on Monday, February 28.

The panel will consist of election candidates of the Labour, Plaid Cymru, Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Green parties. The chair will be Margaret Minhinnick, director of Sustainable Wales.

She said: "The question time is being is held because of the imminence of the referendum vote on March 3, and the next Assembly all-Wales election on May 5."

Questions are invited on any subject, from Bridgend constituency, Welsh or UK issues. Short questions can be emailed to to Sustainable Wales on robertm@phonecoop.coop before Friday, February 25. Everyone welcome and entrance is free.

Who wants to build what and where in Bridgend?

*Dovey Estates Limited – **Land at Waterton Cross Roundabout, Heronston Lane, Bridgend** – Dev of class A3 units for the sale of food/drink to consume on premises and hot food to consume off the premises.*

*Miss C L Evans – **18 Rathbone Terrace, Maesteg** – Single storey extension to provide shower room.*

*Mrs L Williams – **64 Lloyd Street, Maesteg** – Two storey extension to rear to provide new bathroom and en suite shower room.*

*The Principality Building Society – **22 Dunraven Place, Bridgend** – Alteration and conversion of first and second floors to residential accommodation of 2 no. 1 bed flats.*

*Mr R M Benyon – **8 Nant y Wennol, Broadlands** – Two storey and single storey extension and boundary wall to northern curtilage of the plot.*

*Mr John Potter – **8 Pen y Bryn View, Bryncethin** – Rear and side single storey extension and demolish existing conservatory.*

*Bridgend CBC – **Land off High Street, Maesteg** – Placing of restored coal dram at the entrance to the village of Nantyffyllon.*

*Mr and Mrs A Cornhill – **12 Maes Talcen, Brackla** – Conservatory to rear of property.*

*Mr Alexis Hemsley – **142 New Road, Porthcawl** – Single storey rear extension for kitchen/family room.*

*Kerry Jones and Paul Skinner – **Llangynwyd Village (outskirts), Maesteg** – Proposed equestrian centre, affecting footpath 12 Llangynwyd Village.*

Mr R Griffiths – Lan Farm, Cefn Carfan Road, Bryncethin – Prior notification or new build agricultural machinery store.

*Caerau Development Trust, Blaenllynfi School – **Land opp 14–25 North Street, Caerau, Maesteg** – Create a market garden inc. hard standing, poly tunnels, fencing and a shop unit and temp consent for storage containers.*

Porthcawl Christmas swim cash all goes to benefit local charities and voluntary groups

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

AS a result of another successful Christmas Morning Swim, the presentation evening at the Hi-Tide Inn saw the formal handing over of £6,000 to the local organisations chosen to benefit by the committee.

Six hundred and six brave swimmers, many in fancy dress, took the customary dip in the sea and although the sun shone, there was also snow on the beach.

The Christmas Swim spokesman, Ian Stroud, said: "That so many swimmers and spectators took part this year was superb, considering the snow-bound conditions in much of the south Wales's area."

During the presentation on February 11, donations were made to: Porthcawl Stroke Club, Ogwr and District Talking Newspaper Association, Porthcawl and Pyle Pumas Amateur Boxing Club, the Porthcawl Mayor's Civic Fund, Trinity Care Club, Porthcawl Athletic Club, Porthcawl YMCA, Porthcawl Parkinson's Support Group, Sker and Pink Bay Lifeguard Club, Porthcawl Buckaneers, 1st Porthcawl Scout Group and Crossroads.

Ian Stroud told the guests: "A few swimmers raised money for us via sponsorship and, together with the cash raised by our committee, this helped to boost our collections, therefore allowing us to donate more to local groups and organisations."

The following also received a donation in thanks for their help with safety during the Swim: St. John Ambulance, Porthcawl Coastguard, The Fire Service Benevolent Fund, Porthcawl Lifeguard Club, Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat and Rest Bay Lifeguard Club.

Mr Stroud touched upon a recent local tragedy when he announced: "Last month our community, and two families in particular, were struck by a terrible tragedy.

"I refer to the accident on the M4 which left young Logan Michael Evans an orphan. We rarely support individuals but decided unanimously that this was a special case.

"Like so many in Porthcawl, we wanted to help."

Karen Evans received the donation on behalf of the Logan Michael Evans Trust Fund.

Nicola Willis, the chair of the swim, said: "As a small committee, we were delighted in the way we have been supported again this year. We would like to thank all swimmers, spectators, individuals, businesses and organisations who help us in so many ways to make the swim such a successful event in Porthcawl's calendar.

"We are also aware of other organisations that will benefit, as a result of the 'Swim'. We would ask that they contact us so that we can record the full amount raised during our 46th swim."



The MC was Ian Stroud.



ABOVE: The organising committee (left to right): Nicola Willis, Wendy Richards, Jeff Tombs, Linda Stroud, Marilyn Richards and Ian Stroud.

BELOW: Keith Duggan and Barbara Matthews from Porthcawl Stroke Club.



BELOW: Brenda Farley and Rita Hamblin, representing Trinity Care Club.

RIGHT: Aubrey Lewis from Porthcawl and Pyle Boxing Club.
BELOW: David Philpot of Ogwr and District Talking Newspapers.







Karen Evans received a cheque on behalf of the Logan Evans Trust Fund.



ABOVE; Jackie Rees and Bev Smithen of St John Ambulance.



ABOVE: Gareth Davies from Rest Bay Lifeguards.



Janet Skiffins from the Parkinsons Support Group





ABOVE: Porthcawl Mayor, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis, received a cheque for her charity fund from Nicola Willis.



LEFT: Phil Missen from Porthcawl RNLI received a cheque.

RIGHT: John Berry and Cath Jones from Porthcawl YMCA.





Jeff Tombs represented Porthcawl Fire Service.



Peter Pryce from Porthcawl Coastguard.



ABOVE: Huw Murray from Sker Lifeguards.



ABOVE: Kerry Marlow from the Buckaneers



ABOVE: 1st Porthcawl Scout Group received a cheque.



Jackie Lloyd from Crossroads.



Matthew Bowden from Porthcawl Athletic Club



The Mayor presented a cheque to Steph Davenport of Porthcawl Lifeguard Club.

BETTWS WOMAN REPAYS £25,000 BENEFITS CASH

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A BENEFITS claimant has been given an eight-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £1,000 at Cardiff Crown Court.

Kay Jones (47), a woman with no previous convictions, of Bettws, Bridgend, received an income support overpayment between May 2002 and April 2008 totalling £25,560, of which the court heard she had already repaid £25,396.

Jones pleaded guilty to obtaining income support by failing to provide the Department of Work and Pensions with details of a change in her circumstances.

Judge Stephen Hopkins said: "This is different from the run-of-the-mill benefit fraud cases.

"For several years, the defendant claimed benefit fraudulently, as a result of having become the owner of properties.

"It is not necessary to make the inevitable prison sentence immediate. The offending was not fraudulent from the outset, it was not committed for greed,

"Jones has lost her good character and she pleaded guilty at the first opportunity. The offending ended almost three years ago."

Prosecutor Laurence Jones for the DWP said it was accepted that when Jones instigated the claim, it was legitimate.

But in March 2008, the DWP was informed by the local council that she was involved in the ownership of a number of properties which she had not disclosed.

As a result, she was interviewed, and admitted her involvement in the ownership.

Her counsel, David Webster, said: "At the start, it was all perfectly lawful."

Then, he said, a family crisis occurred which caused her to leave the family home.

At no time, he said, did she live beyond her means, and there was no element of greed.

He pointed out that she had a rare genetic blood disorder which caused her difficulties, and she had also experienced a tragedy in her life.

"She was an exemplary mother, and when money became available, she repaid it to the DWP."

Jones was also made subject to a three-month curfew from 8pm to 7am, which involves electronic tagging.

Police appeal after two hurt in club attack

POLICE have appealed to the public for help, after two men were assaulted following a fight at Streets Night Club, in John Street, Porthcawl at about 1.30am on Sunday, February 6.

They said that a 32-year-old man from London was struck in the face and required hospital treatment at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend for a facial injury. In a second incident, a 29-year-old man from Porthcawl was also struck in the face which resulted in hospital treatment.

Neither of the men is believed to have been involved in the disturbance.

Porthcawl Neighbourhood Inspector Alan James said: "These were two unprovoked serious assaults. We would like to hear from anyone who was at Streets in the early hours of Sunday morning and who may have witnessed the fight which broke out.

"If you are able to identify those involved, or have any information which may be of assistance – however little that may be – please contact us."

Contact Inspector James at Porthcawl police station on 101, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

THEN AND NOW!



PHOTOGRAPH by KEITH E MORGAN

ABOVE: Members of Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (PAODS) have started (above) rehearsals for the spring production – the classic musical, Oklahoma, with Michael Plowman as musical director. It is not the first time that they have performed the show. In fact, they performed it in 1964, as the photograph (right) shows. This year's production will be at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on April 27-30.



ABOVE (left to right): Philip George, Jeff John and Anthony Jones, appearing for PAODS in 1964.

Armed Forces Day parade

A 'REHEARSAL' has been held for the Bridgend County Borough Armed Forces Day parade to be held in Bridgend town centre on Saturday, June 25.

The parade is expecting to include the Mayor of Bridgend, civic dignitaries, councillors, regular serving personnel, veterans, TA and cadet contingents, Guides, Scouts, fire and rescue service voluntary services, and St John's Ambulance. The Corps of Drums and the recruiting team of the Royal Logistics Corps will also participate.

A co-ordinating site meeting was held in Bridgend on February 10, with the event organiser Coun Major Wayne Morgan MBE and members of the RLC; Captain Jeremy Oliver, Captain Glenn Hall and the Drum Major.

The group walked the proposed marching route beginning at the YMCA on Angel Street and followed a route into the town centre ending at the war memorial and returning via the same route back to the Bridgend recreation centre.

It was agreed that the Corps of Drums would produce a show of Dark Light in the Dunraven Suite at the recreation centre.

Local councillor's concern over 'possible political restrictions'

POLITICAL activity is not banned from town centres, despite new moves being made by Bridgend County Borough Council to control activities within them, *JAYNE ISAAC reports.*

Bridgend's cabinet has approved a scheme to charge organisations for using open space in Porthcawl and Bridgend town centres as part of overall management of these areas.

Under the scheme, organisations wishing to place trailers or other structures on the highway within these two town centres, which have been pedestrianised, will be charged.

People like market researchers, commercial canvassers and any commercial organisations who put up a stall or other promotional display will have to pay £240 for the first day if they are a national commercial organisation and £120 if they are a local independent commercial organisation. Subsequent days will be charged at £20.

The report to cabinet said that the policy was to co-ordinate and manage activities within the two town centres. It said that demand for the use of the roads and pavements by external organisations had increased significantly.

There were many advantages for organisations operating in this way as they do not incur overheads like rent and business rates which the nearby shops have to pay.

The report said that being in town centres gives them access to a large footfall but uncontrolled and sometimes aggressive canvassing was an increasing problem throughout the UK.

Properly managing this activity would increase the vitality of the town centres and would generate income.

The matter raised concerns at Bridgend Town Council, with Coun David Unwin saying that the area around the war memorial should be excluded from activity of this sort.

He said that activities in the past had resulted in music and disturbance and staff in the post office had complained that they could not hear themselves speak.

He added: "The cenotaph area should be left as a quiet area. There are plenty of other places in the town centre that could be used."

Coun Peter Foley felt that the council's proposals were "excessively bureaucratic" in tone and that the charges due to be levied were excessive.

He went on: "I am also concerned about possible political restrictions. In the past, people have organised activities against things like the Iraq War where they have given out leaflets and held vigils.

"These events were perfectly respectable and were organised by people who wanted to put forward an alternative view to the official version of things. How else can campaigners get their message across to the public?"

He was concerned in case the move killed off political activity within the town centres.

"I fear that an over zealous council officer could try and block perfectly acceptable political activity. I am worried in case the council will say that a permit will be needed for this."

He added: "The health of a town can be gauged by the extent of political activity at street level."

Coun Bob Burns said that this move was not directed towards political activity.

But Coun Foley feared that the move could end up excluding single issue groups from town centres and they were the life blood of our democracy: "This report has been written by somebody who sits behind a desk and who has never been involved in political activity," he said. " I collect leaflets from organisations I do not agree with because my mind is not closed."

Coun David Unwin said that the borough council needs to clarify this issue and it was agreed to contact BCBC expressing these concerns and also requesting that the area around the war memorial be excluded from any hiring of activity space arrangements.

But in a statement to The GEM, the council said that political activity will not be banned and charities and voluntary groups also do not come under the policy so their activities are not restricted.

• In a separate move this week, the council has decided to extend the prohibition of the distribution of "free printed matter" to Maesteg, Pencoed and Porthcawl town centre areas. The ban already exists in Bridgend.

But the council has said that the ban only applies to published material relating to commercial services such as flyers and leaflets. Leaflets and other printed material distributed in all four town centre relating to politics, charities and religion will be permitted.

The aim of this scheme is to reduce the amount of litter as material handed out to passers by or placed on car windscreens is often thrown away as litter. The cost of dealing with this affects the council taxpayer and it also damages the environment.

The scheme has been up and running in Bridgend town centre for the past two years and has been successful. This action is take under the Environmental Act 1990.

The order comes into effect on Monday, April 11, and offenders will be subject to a £75 fixed penalty notice or prosecution.

A market, a quiz and a power cut!

THE local produce market will be held on Saturday, February 19, at the church hall, St Brides Major at 10am - 12 noon.

THE local branch of the Mothers' Union held their monthly meeting at the church hall on February 8 when the speaker was Mr M Boyle (local organist) whose subject was music containing 'Aspects of Love' with music from West End shows.

A PACT meeting at the church hall was attended by 12 members of the public.

The local neighbourhood policing newsletter was distributed. In attendance were our beat manager for the St Brides Major Ogmore-by-Sea, Southerndown and Wick ward, PC Colin Malone (replacing Robin Mellor who has served us well) and PCSO Serena James.

FEBRUARY 11 turned out to be a superb evening at the church hall, with a quiz in aid of funds for The Joshua Foundation Charity.

Two young lads, Sam Davies and Marcus Brabham from the village, will be helping to support this great cause by travelling to Australia to undertake conservation work during the summer holidays after their A levels.

An excellent quiz master had compiled the questions based on 'how much do we know about Oz?'

Light refreshments were provided and many raffle prizes donated. Many thanks to all who supported this worthwhile cause.

In order to reach the £2,800 they have pledged to raise by 2012, further events are to be arranged, including an evening concert at the church (in mid-June), an Australian themed evening with an auction (early September) and a race night (early November).

A NUMBER of villagers in St Brides Major had 'to make do' with cold Sunday lunch on Sunday, February 13, when an electric power cut started at approximately 9am.

Some areas of the village came back on by 10.20am, but others were without electricity until 6pm.

It appears that work was being carried out on a transformer on Penylan Road.

In case of future power cuts, call the 24-hour emergency service on 0800 0520400.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR
Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

Patronal festival

WICK CHAPEL held a special family service on Sunday, January 30 as the usual congregational family service was cancelled due to heavy snow.

A warm welcome was extended to everyone.

FEBRUARY 1 (St Bridget's Day) was celebrated with a Eucharist service at the school.

In the afternoon a 'mini' concert was held at the school with the choir and dance group. It was enjoyed by all parents and friends who attended.

THE evening of February 1 was celebrated with a Celtic service at the church and it was followed by an Irish evening to honour St Bridget at the Fox and Hounds.

There was Irish music, singing, an Irish quiz and of course, Irish stew.

A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

ON Sunday, February 6, the Patronal Festival was celebrated with a Eucharist at the church with the children taking a big part in the service, and this was followed by the traditional parish lunch at the church hall.

A wide selection of main course meals and delicious desserts were all supplied by the hard-working committee.

A vote of thanks was given to the ladies and all those who helped to make the morning a success.

OGMORE Retired Residents Association met at the Watermill, Ogmore village, to enjoy a film of the physic garden in Cowbridge and how it has been developed, from a derelict site to the beauty which can be seen during the spring and summer months.

Hospital closure not driven by finance – *claim*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

CLOSING Maesgwyn will result in a direct saving of £130,000 a year, which will help the board meets its financial targets, as the Welsh Assembly Government is cutting £340m from the health budget in Wales this year.

But she emphasised that the change was not driven by the need to save money – it was driven by the need to change the way care is provided and to provide sustainable services for the future as the population gets older.

"The NHS has moved on and must now change from just providing hospital beds to looking at different models of care out in the community."

Dorothy Edwards told the public meeting that care constantly changed as new treatments and drugs became available and people's expectations also changed.

"Our challenge is to deliver better, faster and more appropriate care in the context of our resources.

"We need to treat people as close to their own homes as possible or in their own homes.

"Maesgwyn has done a very good job over the years and the staff have provided excellent care. This is not about the quality of service there; but there are alternative ways of providing the care now available at Maesgwyn. It's time to think about its future."

Ms Edwards said that transitional care could be provided in nursing or care homes in future, rather than in hospital.

The meeting was told that re-commissioning Maesgwyn was not feasible because of a lack of doctor cover and the lack of other support services on site.

The meeting heard that if it was sold, the board would get the first £500,000 and the rest would go to the Welsh Assembly Government.

The public asked a range of questions, including why more beds could not be provided at Maesgwyn, in view of the bed shortages at the Princess of Wales.

Dr Tony James, who is a consultant physician, said that the shortage of doctors was not only affecting Bridgend, but the whole country.

While he would agree that some patients could transfer to Maesgwyn from PoW, freeing up much-needed beds, the problem would be finding the medical staff to cover.

The European Working Time Directive, which prevents people working for more than 48 hours, had caused massive issues, as well as the change in the way doctors are trained.

He said that he had had sleepless nights worrying about doctor cover not only at Maesgwyn, but also at Princess of Wales, even for the 9–5 cover needed. Meetings have been held about this last week.

The population was also ageing, with the number of people reaching 90 now being common. The average age of patients in PoW is 85.

Alex Howells commented that not all the people in PoW needed to be in there. Stopping them from coming in was crucial, as well as speeding up the process to get them out.

In the past, there had been too few community services and people had been left lingering in hospital for too long.

Not enough community services were in place yet, but freeing up the resources from Maesgwyn should help.

Coun Pat Penpraze said that it was her strong view that Maesgwyn should be kept open to provide respite care.

She also asked how the Princess of Wales would cope with the new residents coming into houses at Parc Derwen, Broadlands, and other developments.

"You could use Maesgwyn to free up the beds in PoW, or use them for respite care.

"If there are problems with doctors now, there will be worse problems in a few years."

Dr James said that Bridgend had expanded tremendously over the past 25 years and the provision for infrastructure to serve these extra people had lagged behind.

However, many of the people who have moved in were young people, but it was not young people who mainly use health care services – it is older people.

"The elderly and frail take up most of the hospital beds," he said. "They will benefit from these changes."

One resident asked how putting people into nursing homes was better for them than being in Maesgwyn.

Dorothy Edwards replied that nursing homes had single rooms with an en-suite and people could interact and socialise with each other – rather than being left in bed in a hospital bay with no privacy.

The environment was better, but the quality of care was the same.

She promised that the board would be working more closely with nursing homes in the area to help them provide care for people with different needs.

A nurse practitioner would be visiting the homes and following up the patients transferred.

Dorothy Edwards said that CISS was a five-day-a-week service, but not strictly 9 to 5.

She said that it was being expanded, but did not need to be a 24/7 service although it must operate at weekends.

"If we can redirect the money from Maesgwyn, we can make CISS a seven-day service.

GPs were now on board and were beginning to send more and more patients to the CISS team as their confidence in it grew.

Once a consultant was appointed, there had been a significant increase in referrals from GPs.

She added that there were on-going negotiations with nursing homes in Bridgend, who say that they can free up the capacity needed.

Some of the talks concerned transitional beds and homes are being asked if they can provide interim beds for people waiting to go to the home of their choice.

The public meeting was part of an "engagement" process.

A report on public response will be made to the ABM board in March and they will then decide whether to carry out a full scale consultation on the proposal to close the hospital.

'Hard to justify' public loo costs £20,000 a year

THE automatic public loo in Porthcawl which is provided by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), costs £20,000 a year to rent but is used on average only 47 times a week.

This information was given by Richard Fletcher, head of street scene at BCBC, who said that the council had decided to close this convenience to save money. It is located by the bus stops at the top end of John Street.

He said it was difficult to justify this outlay when there were alternative public conveniences further up John Street, although they were not open 24/7, as the automatic ones are.

He asked if the town council would consider taking over the rental, although the suppliers want to replace it with a more modern unit for which the rent would probably be higher.

He also claimed in his letter that there were no participants in Porthcawl in the council's comfort scheme, under which pubs and restaurants are paid to allow their loos to be used by the public.

He went on: "Enquiries will be made with local licensed premises to establish their willingness to participate."

When the letter was discussed at Porthcawl Town Council, Coun Sean Aspey said that the letter was wrong.

"Porthcawl has got more participants in this comfort scheme than everywhere else in the county borough put together," he said. "Pubs like the Ancient Briton, Jolly Sailor,. Hi Tide and hotels like the Atlantic and the Fairways have all signed up. There are about nine businesses along the promenade alone that are involved.

"The borough council is paying out money so that people can use these loos, so they need to publicise which are involved."

Coun John Bunker said that some of the businesses who were paid had not put the stickers up in their windows to show that they participate.

He added: "They should be required to put the notice up in order to get the payment."

Coun Chris Smart said that it was a shame that BCBC was closing the loo and he recommended discussing the offer to take it over at the next capital projects meeting.

"We are talking about a lot of money, but we cannot decide this here tonight. We must consider it in conjunction with plans we may have to provide public toilets elsewhere. We could also consider moving it elsewhere."

Coun Bunker had no objection to the proposal being referred to the committee but he said that the cost of moving this toilet would be astronomical apart from the rent: "I think that it will be rejected," he added.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE NEWS

REUNION

KENFIG Hill RFC, fondly known as the 'Mules', recently reached a landmark in its history – 50 years ago since the existing Clubhouse was officially opened by the Welsh Rugby Union.

During this half century, the various management committees are to be complimented on their efforts to continually upgrade the premises to provide facilities, which have been beneficial to all club members.

The premises now compare favourably with the majority of rugby clubhouses in the Principality.

A 'past and present players reunion' has been organised by former Welsh international Ray Giles on Saturday, February 26 at 1pm. It will be held in the upstairs function room to coincide with the televised international match between Wales and Italy which will be shown on the big screen facility. With refreshments, good ales and a gathering of old friends, the atmosphere will be fabulous!

For further details, call Tony Lewis on 01656 741771.

KPC YOUTH

ARE your children or teenagers looking for somewhere to spend the half-term holidays?

For fun and interesting things to do, they will not find anywhere better than KPC Youth based in Pyle. During the February half-term holiday, February 21-25, they will be open daily from 10am until 3pm for the 8-12-year-olds and until 5pm for the over-13s.

The centre will also be open on a Monday and Wednesday evening from 5.30pm for 8-12-year-olds and from 8pm-10pm for the over-13s.

On Tuesday and Thursday evenings, the centre will be open from 5.30pm-10pm for the over-13s only. KPC also operates a free minibus service which will run a return trip to Cefn Cribwr and Cornelly for the over-13s on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

KPC Youth offers a wide range of activities, including an outdoor skate park, BMX park, multi-sports court, adventure play area, a fantastic new computer room with Internet access, arts and crafts, pool and table tennis.

Other activities offered during the February half-term are a trip to see training at the Millennium Stadium, a workshop on road safety, an evening dance, all on Monday 21st February, a Fishing Trip, an evening rock school form 6.30pm-8pm, both on Wednesday, February 23, boxing during the evening on Thursday, February 24, an evening ice skating trip to Cardiff Ice Rink on Friday, February 25, plus a bike workshop (date to be confirmed).

During this half-term period, there will also be art workshops, information and advice sessions. Membership is £1.50, with daytime and evening sessions costing 50p for members and £1.50 for non-members.

If you're aged between 13 and 17 there's even free admission during the half-term holiday if you become a member.

For further information regarding the activities at KPC, call into the centre, next to Pil primary School, Off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle or Tel: 01656 749219/745399.



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by ***Richard Sims***
Telephone: 01656 746840
Mobile: 07802 439679
E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Community trip

IT was good to see so many people from Kenfig Hill and district meet up for a pleasant afternoon out last Sunday.

The Talbot Community Centre organised a trip to see *Holiday on Ice* in Cardiff. Everyone who went agreed that it was a magnificent show and well worth seeing and made that more enjoyable with so many locals meeting up and going together.

Plans to see the musical *Grease* in July are well at the advanced stage and looks to be another sell out with two thirds of the tickets sold already.

If you are interested in going to see this musical and having a day out again with friends from the community, contact Cheryl Butcher in the Talbot, or ring her on 01656 749754.

PUPILS' PRIZES

CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week: Joshua Jones, Class 1, Georgia Coleman, Class 2, Isabel Elwood, Class 3, Phillip Burnell, Class 4, Connor Farnham, Class 5, Terri Knight, Class 6 and Taylor Dennis from Class 7. The Headteacher's award went to Martha Watkins.

Congratulations also go to Holly-Mae Evans, Britney Griffiths, Mia Hopkins, Nia David, Olivia Davies, Lik To Chung, Amy Ruck, Alex Moodie, Taryn Mathews and Jake Thomas for their excellent behaviour during lunchtimes last week and as a reward they will be joining Mr Goldsworthy for lunch.

On Friday, February 4, the school played at home to Ogmore Primary school in netball and rugby. The 'A' team performed really well, with Thomas Morgan scoring two tries and Luke Dingle, Jordan Baker, Lewis Blythe, Anthony Burnell, Lloyd Thomas scoring one try each with Ceiran Jones completing the scoring with a try and six conversions in a 52-5 points victory.

The 'B' team, with tries from Callum Lewis (year-5), Leon Jones, Christopher Hatherley, and Morgan Kent had a very creditable draw. Well done to all those who took part.

The netball teams also did very well, with both the 'A' and 'B' teams winning their matches. The 'A' team played really well in winning by 6-2 with Taylor Dennis being player of the match.

The 'B' team also had an excellent win by 9-0 in which Jorden Daniells was the outstanding player.

Campaigners welcome news of RAF Chivenor reprieve

NEWS that the 24-hour cover provided by search and rescue helicopter based at RAF Chivenor is safe for the time being has been welcomed by local campaigners.

Coun Sean Aspey, who lives in Porthcawl, has been leading the fight in south Wales to stop Chivenor being reduced to providing 12 hour cover.

During the night, the Ministry of Defence was proposing to fly in helicopters either from RAF Culdrose in Cornwall or Raf Valley on Anglesey.

The proposals have been put on hold by the new government amid concerns about the way in which the privatisation of the search and rescue service has been handled.

A contract which was due to have been signed with the government's preferred bidder has been ditched.

Coun Aspey said that it seemed as if the protests from councils in south Wales and the west country, as well as other agencies, AM's and MP's had caused the government to take a closer look at what was happening.

"They may come back with plans to privatise at some point but we need to ensure that we are going to get adequate cover in south Wales.

"If helicopters come from Cornwall or north Wales, it adds a half hour flying time before a rescue can start and that could mean the difference between life and death."

Coun Aspey wrote to every council in south Wales and has been the link with the west country campaign which is being co-ordinated by Ilfracombe Town Council.

As part of the fight, he organised a protest rally in Rest Bay which was attended by representatives of every council in south Wales.



ASSEMBLY, COUNCILS, AND UNIONS COME TOGETHER TO TACKLE CUTS

LAST month, First Minister Carwyn Jones AM joined the leader of the Welsh Local Government Association, Coun John Davies and general secretary of the Wales TUC, Martin Mansfield, to sign a voluntary agreement to work together in managing the impact of the UK Government's cuts on jobs and services.

This followed extensive discussions led by Carwyn Jones, which resulted in the agreement being approved by all 22 leaders of local authorities in Wales. The First Minister said that this showed the willingness of all parties to work together to address the challenges of public spending cuts, and to protect the workforce from compulsory redundancies as far as possible. He recognised that our local government workforce is *"our greatest asset in delivering vital services to the people of Wales"*.

Public sector trade unions were fully engaged in these discussions and backed the new framework leading to the following statement being made by the Wales TUC: *"This is a hugely significant step forward in developing a Welsh way of dealing with cuts imposed on us from London. It mirrors the approach we adopted in response to the economic crisis – unions, employers and Welsh Government working together in partnership to find innovative solutions.*

"There will be different local circumstances for each authority to discuss with their trade unions, but this agreement provides a solid framework for those discussions. The Wales TUC believes that this all-Wales agreement will provide the flexibility required to mitigate the effects of the Westminster cuts – placing jobs and services at the heart of our response."

To support this, last week I launched the new £5million programme 'Adapt' with Lesley Griffiths AM, the Deputy Minister for Skills, to help the public sector workforce meet challenges.

This will provide a single point of contact service with a Freephone number 0800 100 900 for people in the public sector.

Adapt will provide training, advice and guidance to the public sector-employees and employers who may face redundancy, to support them in finding new job opportunities.

It extends the successful ReAct scheme which we set up in October 2008 to help private sector employees facing redundancy during the recession. When people contact the helpline, they will be given an appointment for advice and support from an adult guidance advisor at their local Careers Wales office.

The guidance interview will include offers of training, benefits eligibility and travel and childcare costs can also be covered.

The contact centre and Adapt are part of a Wales-wide support network involving Career Wales, Job Centre Plus, the Wales TUC and the Welsh Assembly Government.

Adapt is the Welsh Assembly Government programme we have set up to help people gain new skills to find employment. It also provides a subsidy to companies who take on people whose jobs have been made redundant.

The next few weeks and months are going to be very tough for the public sector as the UK Government cuts bite. However, we have sought to protect jobs and services in Local Government, as was clear in the Local Government Revenue Settlement debate this week in the Assembly, with an increase of 0.1 per cent over the next three years - far less than the 2.3 per cent cuts to local government in England.

We have also protected local government from the £163 million cuts which were imposed on us by the UK Government last June.

In our budget for next year, we have protected funding for schools, social services, concessionary bus fares, free swimming, free breakfasts, Flying Start, the Foundation phase, Pathways to Apprenticeships and the Educational Maintenance Allowance for our young people.

These are the priorities which will help support our economic recovery and protect the vulnerable.

Adapt is yet another 'made in Wales' measure which shows our determination to support our local government workforce.

Local authorities must now play their part in reflecting this level of protection and support from the Welsh Assembly Government in their budgets for 2011/12.

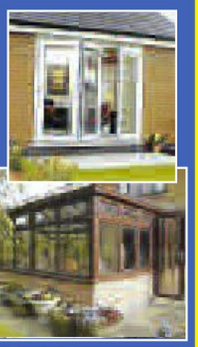
ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Jane Hutt AM
(Assembly Minister for business and budget)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

MP's surgeries

VALE MP Alun Cairns, will be holding surgeries for advice and assistance on Friday, February 18, at the following locations:

The Gathering Place, St Athan (1.30pm-3pm); Tesco, Stirling Road, Barry (4pm-5,30pm).

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

PHAB sale

THE Penarth PHAB club is holding a table top sale at Albert Road Methodist Church and Community Centre (Penarth) on Saturday, February 19 at 10am-12pm.

Tables still available at £5. Contact Bernadette Bell on 02920 703628.

Floral society

MRS Margaret Walker of Cheltenham will give an illustrated talk to Barry Floral Society 'Everything Stops for Tea', at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, on Tuesday, February 22 at 2.15pm. ***New members welcome.***

Street surgery

INDEPENDENT Vale councillor Richard Bertin is holding a street surgery between 10.30am-11.30am on Saturday, February 19, in the Bassett Street and Everard Street area of Barry.

Contact Coun Bertin on 01446 736227

• Brabantia • Stellar • Horwood • Judge Vista • Meyer • Circulon • Anolon •

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Penarth Computer Club – Desktop publishing, made simple!

AS a youngster, growing up in a 'corner shop' that sold everything, I can remember the annual process of helping better-off customers order their personalised Christmas cards.

We had a large album showing the various styles that could be customised to order, and the cards would arrive weeks after placing the order.

Mike J, on the other hand, showed that if you needed any sort of greeting card one morning, it could be designed, on the hoof, printed in the precise number required and posted the same day.

The difference is the growth of DTP (Desk Top Publishing). There are several different software packages available requiring various levels of expertise.

Although the actual results can be achieved very quickly, just as with driving a car, there is a learning curve. The good news is that it is possible to start getting excellent results in no time at all.

The software itself contains a selection of styles and layouts for different purposes. These can be used to good effect until you become a little more adventurous with your own design preferences.

Mike uses DTP to design posters and had samples of his handiwork for viewing. He then proceeded to take a couple of them apart (on screen) to illustrate the components used to compile the final effect. This is achieved by containing 'objects' in 'invisible' frames. (These are frames that show borders on screen so that you can see where they are, but do not print their borders onto the paper when printing the results – unless, of course, you want them to do so.)

The objects in the frames can be pictures, pieces of clipart or text. Any object can be stretched, shrunk, enlarged rotated, inverted or mirrored to suit your layout. The mirroring effect is needed if you are composing a design for a T-shirt so that it comes out the right way when the shirt is printed.

Mike gave a few tips to consider when designing posters:

- It is reasonable to give prominence to a logo that will be recognised by your intended audience.
- The key words that deliver a short simple message can be emphasised to grab interest quickly. Once you have their attention the readers will take the time to read further information in smaller print.
- Avoid going overboard by using lots of fancy fonts or lots of colours. Aim at no more than three font styles, although they can be used in different sizes.

A question about introducing borders gave rise to a reference to the help file and an examination of several border options from the many that are available from plain to coloured and patterned.

Mike confessed that he didn't normally use borders, so although he was giving the talk he had learned something new himself – and, after all, that's what the club is all about.

We next meet on Tuesday, February 22 at All Saints Lesser Hall at 7.30pm when Kevin will be reviewing the best free software. Visitors welcome.

HOWARD DESMOND

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D657.

- **£2,000:** 510276.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £11,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 290782, 328120, 297980, 329822, 494688, 127984, 915020, 932551, 361134, 585007, 402511, 538764, 362119, 858134, 421461, 197954, 335177, 342697, 133645, 369417, 802774, 371019, 655638, 642836, 333168, 351671, 343036, 647621, 491056, 840802, 766391, 332799, 699288, 624298, 368423, 789790, 779377, 354247, 872547, 290790, 116463. 387288, 347089, 425898,
- **£5:** 197653, 607134, 714110, 542533, 676984, 613970, 353011, 460581, 886189, 704718, 322523, 507673, 170729, 133123, 396604, 661073, 496835, 151442, 477070, 878967, 191532, 180981, 208413, 231674, 759072, 605080, 473601, 537191, 629177, 769771, 176884, 607700, 100827, 452169, 245317, 217254.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Lack of business rates relief scheme is putting the squeeze on traders



Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

ARE you paying too much for your business rates? I've heard from many high street retailers and pubs in the Vale over the recent months, who are all justifiably concerned about the business rate relief system in Wales.

There's no doubt that high levels of business rates are causing the closure of many of our local shops and businesses.

The Government is clear that helping small shops and businesses grow is a crucial part of rebalancing and rebuilding the economy across the UK.

However, the Welsh Assembly Government has taken a different route to the rate relief system in England, which is much more generous. The latest valuations were conducted across Wales at the peak of the property market some years ago, and have not been revalued since the recession hit the UK.

To date, the Welsh Assembly Government has yet to take any action to mitigate these effects through a wide-spread relief scheme.

This high rateable value has also influenced rent prices and forced the costs upwards for many businesses and retailers; indeed, in many cases there has been a fourfold increase in costs.

The leisure industry is particularly hit during this tough economic climate, and pubs within the Vale are struggling to cope with the high business rates and rents.

In England, action is simultaneously being taken through the business rates system to support small firms.

The Government has, for example, doubled small business rate relief for one year and that measure is currently saving approximately half a million businesses £390 million in taxes, with more than a third of a million ratepayers paying no rates at all for a year.

In addition, the Localism Bill will simplify the process for firms claiming small business rate relief.

As a member of the Localism Committee, I'm keen to see that the Bill will also give local authorities powers to provide business rates discounts, which could be used to provide targeted support for local services, or to help kick start regeneration schemes.

However, the benefits of the Localism Bill will not be realised in Wales because the Welsh Assembly Government has chosen to opt out.

At the very least, we need to push for a relief scheme to support your local shops and high street.

The recent focus around Tesco coming to Dinas Powys follows the same issues as those in Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, Barry, Rhoose and elsewhere. There is a real danger that the only shops able to afford the current rates are UK chain stores.

Local business people and the unique character of our high streets are being squeezed out of business.

Debate still rages over proposed Sainsbury's Local in Vale town

LATER this spring, Vale councillors will be making a decision over whether a Sainsbury's Local store should be allowed in the old bike and tool shop in Park Crescent, Barry.

It is an issue which has provoked strong opinion on both sides of the debate.

Petitions have been raised against the store and some local residents and businesses have strongly campaigned against it.

Last week, Barry resident Mr Ben Corey wrote to The GEM to say he was amazed at how one-sided the views had been on the proposed supermarket.

He said: "I, and most people I have been talking to, would welcome the new store, because it will offer fresh food, more choice and much better value for local people.

"I also believe that the new Sainsbury's will mean less traffic on our roads, as local people will be able to get decent food and drink on their doorstep without having to drive to the supermarket."

He said he welcomed more competition in the area.

This week, Mrs Leanne Sokolski, who lives not far from where the store could be located and is an opponent of it, got in touch with The GEM. She claimed Mr Corey's views were "short-sighted".

Mrs Sokolski argued: "Evidence from all over the country demonstrates that stores like Sainsbury's Locals offer no benefit to local communities such as the West End of Barry.

"They contribute little, apart from the payment of council tax. They offer little by way of employment as they generally employ staff from outside the area. Profits go back to the head office in London.

"Compare this with small traders on Park Crescent who employ local people, often an entire family.

"These locals live in Barry and spend their profits here, as well as reinvesting them into the businesses – just look at the reinvestment the chemist in Park Crescent has made in his store.

"Small businesses do not have the buying power of Sainsbury's and can't possibly compete on price. These small businesses will be driven out, leaving staff out of jobs and empty properties contributing nothing to the community except the eyesore and vandalism associated with empty properties.

"No other traders will be prepared to take on the properties because they too won't be able to compete with Sainsbury's. This leaves Sainsbury's in a monopoly position."

Mrs Sokolski said one of the opponents' main concerns was the safety of local youngsters "as cars and delivery vehicles cross the pavement directly opposite the school to enter and leave the proposed car park".

She also pointed out: "If Mr Corey likes to shop locally, he ought to know that the Co-operative at the top of Pontypridd Road has a wide selection of fresh fruit and vegetables and is open 24 hours a day."

She added that Mr Corey was naive if he thought people would be leaving their cars at home to walk to the proposed Sainsbury's.

Sainbury's has already successfully applied for an alcohol licence, and says it will provide the community with greater choice.

(See also letter on page 20).

Can you give Emmett a loving home?

Emmett is very sweet and is only two and a half!



THE GEM is in partnership with the Dogs Trust to find good homes for animals at the Rehoming Centre in Bridgend (Telephone 01656 725219).

This week a spokeswoman highlighted Emmett, a two and a half year old Jack Russell Terrier:

"He's a sweet lad, and is very affectionate. He can be quite unsure of some new situations and this can lead to him being either excitable or worried, but a patient owner who will continue socialising and training him will help him build his confidence.

"He does mix with other dogs off lead, and will enjoy further socialising. He's a fun little chap, he loves his toys and he's very affectionate.

"He is bright and active and loves lots of exercise. He can live with older children, and could live with a female dog who is quite calm and has good social skills. He would like an owner with experience of owning terriers."

'Ogmore housing plan could win on appeal' – councillor

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

AN OGMORE by Sea councillor has slammed planning officers of the Vale Council for failing to come up with reasons to turn down the planning application to build houses on the Ogmore Camp site.

Coun Les Walters, who sits on St Bride's Major Community Council, said he was shocked that officers had relied on a list of planning objections from his own council in order to draw up reasons for refusal.

Planning officers at the Vale had recommended in December that the application from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), which owns the site, to build more than 80 houses on the land should be granted.

But councillors voted to turn the application down. The whole issue was then deferred to February's meeting so that members and officers could come up with suitable reasons to refuse.

When the matter came back up, officers produced a report which analysed a list of nine reasons put in by the community council and it was decided that two of these would be used as justification for refusal.

They include the problems with the proposed access via Somerset View, and also the fact that the former operators of the education centre – Kingswood Leisure and Learning – had indicated that they were willing to invest in the site to keep the centre open.

Coun Walters said he was astounded by what had happened.

"I was a borough and county councillor and there is no way that the likes of the late Phil Squire and other leading councillors would have tolerated this sort of behaviour from officers," he said. "They would have been out through the door.

"What are we paying planning officers for if councillors have to sit down and do their job for them?

"It was the wish of democratically elected and accountable councillors that this application be refused. It is the job of all council officers to do the bidding of the elected members.

"If they were in private practice, they would have to do the bidding of their clients. Well, councillors represent the taxpayers who are the clients in this case. Here we have the tail wagging the dog."

Coun Walters fears that if or when BCBC appeal against this decision, the Vale Council could find itself hoist by its own petard.

"The council will only be able to justify its decision on the grounds stated," he said. "They will not be able to add in any other reasons.

"I feel that the council will be in a weak position at any future appeal and that there is a real danger that the decision will be overturned by an inspector and permission granted."

Coun Walters stated that in his view the community council had put forward a number of other valid reasons but these had been ruled out by Vale officers.

Access was a valid reason for refusal but he had grave doubts about the validity of the argument about the continuing use of the centre.

"It is up to the owners of any property to decide what happens to it and BCBC has decided it does not want this centre any more.

"That is their right as the owners. I do not feel that this is a valid planning argument for refusal and its inclusion weakens the overall case."

Coun Walters pointed out that the Vale Council had already given permission for a separate development on adjoining land to take place which would add more than 80 houses to the village which currently has 400 dwellings.

He said that the influx of new residents living in those houses would put a strain on local resources and facilities.

If the Camp scheme also goes through, the size of the village will increase by a half, with no corresponding increase in community facilities – other than the plan for a new public house.

Former Cowbridge pupil has sights on running family farm

FORMER Cowbridge pupil Lewys Hopkin has just taken a big step towards achieving his ambition, to run his parents' farm within the next few years.

Lewys, of Cefn Coed, Llanharry, Pontyclun – a member of a well known local farming family – has won the Farmers' Union of Wales Walter Rowlands memorial award, worth £200.

A former pupil of Llansannor primary and Cowbridge comprehensive schools, he has begun work as a trainee agricultural fitter with David Evans of Llancarfan, and hopes to go to an agricultural engineering college to gain his City and Guilds in agricultural engineering.

"The opportunity to train as a fitter is the realisation of my schoolboy dreams, which I hope will stand me in good stead for my future farming ambitions of running the family farm," said Lewys, whose grandparents Stan and Sheila Hopkin, of Rectory farm, Llansannor, were among the first members of the FUW more than 50 years ago.

"This award will help me build up a tool bag for my training to become a fitter," he added.

A member of Maendy Young Farmers, Club, he hopes to take part in stock judging and countryside skills competitions. He currently plays rugby for Llanharan.

Walter Rowlands was the FUW's first county executive officer in Glamorgan. He served the union from 1956 to 1985.

To recognise his contribution to the union, the memorial fund makes an annual award of £200 towards the cost of books and equipment to students living within the old Glamorgan county boundary who have been accepted for an agricultural course.

Presenting the award to Lewys during a ceremony at the Masons Arms Hotel, Bryncethin, FUW president Gareth Vaughan said he was delighted to see young enthusiastic people entering the industry.

"I wish Lewys every success with his future career and his aspirations to be a full-time, respected farmer with good back-up skills and qualifications."

Applications for next year's award must be received at FUW's County Office, 58 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7AB by November 30. Contact Adrian Evans or Christine Anstee on 01446 774838 for further details.



ABOVE (left to right): FUW national president, Gareth Vaughan, FUW Glamorgan county president John Llewellyn, Lewys Hopkin, FUW deputy president Emyr Jones and Glamorgan county chairman Glyn Jones.

Welsh Secretary gives a vote of confidence to YMCA's planned new Porthcawl centre

THE appeal launched by Porthcawl YMCA for £150,000 to remodel its base in the town was backed by Welsh Secretary Cheryl Gillan during a visit to the John Street centre.

The organisation has secured £300,000 in funding through the Welsh Assembly Government and is now seeking the match funding it needs for the project to begin.

She was welcomed by John Berry, president of Porthcawl YMCA, who introduced her to volunteers and helpers, and showed plans and a model of the development.

Also among those present were Coun Norah Clarke and her husband Mike, who are putting together the funding package, and Rev Colin Richards, who chairs the building committee.

Planning permission for the scheme has already been obtained and they hope to start work next April.

Mrs Gillan was welcomed to Porthcawl by town mayor Coun Mary Emment Lewis and deputy mayor Coun Barbara Stubbs.

Mrs Gillan told the assembled volunteers and helpers that she was very impressed by what she had seen.

"I am Welsh, despite what people may be saying. I was born and brought up in Cardiff and I am a successful Welsh export.

"As Welsh Secretary, I want to make Wales a better place, as you are trying to make Porthcawl a better place."





KEITH E MORGAN was there with his trusty camera as the Welsh Secretary met YMCA supporters (above). She also called in the Tenovus shop (right), where Porthcawl Mayor Mary Emment Lewis is a volunteer.

The busy, busy Lions are all around Porthcawl

PORTHCAWL Lions Club is getting ready for a busy period, with all sorts of activities and social events in the pipeline.

Members started off last Saturday by supporting the Marie Curie Cancer Care Daffodil appeal at the Co-op Store in Pyle.

This week, they have a social event at the Prince of Wales Public House in Kenfig; and at the weekend they are in the Seabank Hotel with their now well-known massive book sale.

Organiser Lion Don Tickner said,: "This is the first book sale of the year, but there will be many more". Doors open at 10am both days and admission is free.

Full details of the book sales can be obtained from lionsclub36 @ hotmail. co.uk

Porthcawl Lions will be in John Street on February 26, 10am–4pm again supporting the Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal.

On February 27, the Lions will be at the Hi Tide and along the route of the Porthcawl Lions 38-Furlong Fun Run which starts at 10am.

"The event is open to all runners and even walkers.

"Everyone who takes part receives a medal and the world record for this event is there to be broken," said, Lion Rhys Lewis.

Further details can be obtained via porthcawllions.org or by telephoning Rhys on 01656772369

DAVID RICHARDS

Porthcawl mayor elect is confirmed

THE Mayor-elect of Porthcawl has been confirmed by Porthcawl Town Council.

Coun Barbara Stubbs, who is deputy mayor, will now be installed as mayor at the annual meeting in May. She is a conservative member.

She was proposed by Coun Chris Smart and seconded by Coun David Newton Williams.

There were seven votes in favour with four abstentions from the Liberal Democrats. No-one voted against.

Transport, nursing homes, bus services, cemetery charges – all in line for cuts?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

• Closure of two automatic toilets – one in Porthcawl and one in Bridgend. Bridgend Town Council has refused to pay the £20,000 rental of theirs, which means it will go but Porthcawl Town Council are still considering what to do.

• Cuts to day service provision with possible cuts to the transport provided. The report says that this will increase pressure on carers. The cut will be £260,000.

• A cut of £200,000 in the budget for payments to residential and nursing homes.

• A £100,000 cut in the subsidy on car parking for council staff in council-owned car parks, which is likely to incur "staff resistance." The original cut proposed in November was £140,000.

• Reductions of £100,000 in the budget for supported bus services, which could mean some services being withdrawn

• A review of running costs and charges to traders in Bridgend market.

• Removal of the £100,000 subsidy to Bryngarw House.

• Changes to the provision of services for young people to save money

• Increased cemetery charges.

Two changes that were proposed in the draft budget have been dropped. The plan to transfer community centres to local community groups, which would have saved £90,000, have been shelved so that more discussion can take place on the details.

Also, the plan to cut the number of black bags given out has also been deleted. This would have saved £30,000.

Fees and charges for council services are to increased by an average of three per cent, although trade waste charges will go up 10 per cent.

Councillors praise The GEM as Porthcawl regeneration public meeting gets update

by JAYNE ISAAC

PORTHCAWL town councillors have praised The GEM for disclosing information from leaked documents which detail how the revenue from the sale of land in the Porthcawl Regeneration Area is to be divided up.

In a series of articles over the past few months, The GEM has revealed that the Evans families, who are the private owners of the land involved, are to get 72 per cent of the profits of the sale of land to Tesco, with BCBC getting 28 per cent.

Overall, there will be a 60-40 split in favour of the council; however, we revealed last week that valuers have warned there is a risk of the council not getting its share, because of a drop in land values.

The Evans families will get a guaranteed £15m from the sale of all the land – £5m from phase one, which includes the supermarket, and £10m from phase 2.

They also warned that it could be 20 years or longer before phase-2 gets under way, leaving the council taxpayer to take the hit if the land is sold at a lower price than its valuation in 2006.

The council is due to sign this agreement with the Evans shortly and cabinet voted last week to approve the deal in a secret session.

When regeneration came up at Porthcawl Town Council, Coun Chris Smart stated he was delighted that it was now going to be included on every agenda of the council,.

"We are discussing this on the same day as The GEM has revealed information about secret deals and of the risks," he said.

"Nobody would know about this without The GEM as we have been kept in the dark about what's happening in Porthcawl.

"The people of Porthcawl do not know what is happening to the land in their own town, because we are not getting the true facts from official sources.

"I do not see why this information was put on pink (secret) papers. People should know about the risks of what's being done."

Coun Smart said that as a result of the concern in the town about what was happening, the town council should organise a public meeting.

"We should call the meeting ourselves and invite regeneration officer Andrew Parry Jones and communities director Louise Fradd from BCBC to come and explain what's happening.

"We also want the Tesco developers present, so that we know what's happening there. That development should have started a year ago, but nothing has yet been signed."

Coun Smart said that Porthcawl Shout and the chamber of trade had both had meetings with BCBC officers about progress on the scheme, so it was time that the town council did as well.

He was backed by Conservative group leader David Deere, who said that the public was entitled to know what was going on from BCBC and the developer.

"If you read The GEM, the council has employed valuers who are very eminent and they have warned that there's a danger of the value of the land going down.

"I do not think that there is a demand in the town for flats at the moment.

"The flats on Rest Bay have taken two years to sell. I feel that if land values go down, there should be something in the agreement with the Evans's for a clawback of some of the money they will have received up front."

Coun Sean Aspey said that in his view there was a vast chasm between BCBC and the town council.

"We need a meeting to engage the public. We have not asked people what they want since 2007. A whole generation of children have grown up in Porthcawl waiting for regeneration and waiting for facilities.

"There was nothing here when I was a kid and there's still nothing. This town and its people need to have input about what leisure facilities are to be provided under the plan.

"In the three years I have been a councillor, there has been no request from BCBC for our views or for information," he concluded.

Councillors agreed unanimously to call a public meeting. Sitting in the public gallery was regeneration campaigner Graham Walter who told The GEM afterwards that he welcomed the move to hold the meeting.

"On the face of it, this announcement should be welcomed. The Town Council appears to be responding to people pressure and, in particular, our six month long campaign for regeneration to become part of the town council agenda and also our call for better communication with local people.

"Make no mistake, this is a massive u-turn by our town council leadership.

"For years, the town council told residents regeneration was nothing to do with them and it was a matter for BCBC. Now, they have changed their stance,"

He added that no details about when or where the meeting would be held were discussed and it will be interesting to see how long it takes for this meeting to take place.

CUTS BRING FEARS OF CLOSURE FOR MAESTEG LIBRARY

THE reduction in funding for libraries will raise fresh fears in Maesteg about the future of their town centre library.

Library chiefs pressed ahead with plans to relocate the library to the town's sports centre but had to drop their plans in the teeth of opposition from residents, who organised a petition against the proposal.

In the end, library bosses decided to designate the new library at the sports centre, called Y Llynfi, as a centre of excellence for the whole borough for Welsh language material, and also as a home for its music collection. Family history was also located there with its own computers.

Although there is no indication in the budget about where the axe will fall, Maesteg residents fear that the town centre library is being lined up to take the hit.

Opponents of moving it to the sports centre successfully argued last time that the new out-of- town location, which is up a steep hill in every direction, would be inaccessible to everyone without a car.

They say that older people would not be able to walk to it and it is not on any bus routes.

The present library, right in the town centre is only yards from the bus station. It is convenient for people to use while doing their shopping.

Staff fear that footfall will drop considerably if they are shunted to the new location, which would only be convenient for people shopping in the nearby Tesco stores.

Town centre traders also warned that moving the library would impact on their businesses if library users no longer go into town and instead trek to the sports centre.

The temptation would then be to shop in Tesco's instead which would result in a drop in custom for town centre shops, the market and local cafes.

Follow the (Vale Council) Leader:

£3million funding boost for rural regeneration

IN many ways, the rural Vale has had an excellent start to 2011: our rural areas (in the county apart from Barry and Penarth), look set to receive around £3 million in new grants.

The council's cabinet will shortly consider details of this funding package which has been developed by the council's rural regeneration team, Creative Rural Communities, with funding coming from the Welsh Assembly.

The projects include several grant schemes to support the fabric of rural communities – in the form of the regeneration of public spaces and the 'greening' of community buildings and £500,000 is identified for improvements to the rural cycle network and footpaths.

There will be funding for tourism, too, with the aim of stimulating innovative developments in the arts, culture, food and heritage tourism.

Also, for the first time, funds would be available to offer financial support and advice to Vale farmers to diversify into non-agricultural activities.

Funding would also be opened up for rural 'hub' development, which would be based on the very successful 'pub is the hub' initiative currently operating in parts of rural England.

Llantwit scheme

Another scheme from Creative Rural Communities is the improvement project for Boverton Road in Llantwit Major. The quarter of a million pound grant awarded to Llantwit Major Town Council means that improvements should be delivered by the end of April.

The scheme will see improvements to the shopping centre around Boverton Road with the creation of formal parking spaces. The project also includes new paving, lighting, seating and planting.

Cowbridge Library

Sticking with my rural Vale theme, it was a pleasure to open the new look Cowbridge library at the beginning of this month.

The library has been completely redecorated inside and out and has a new IT suite, separate children's area and new self-service equipment, plus lighting and shelving and furniture have all been upgraded. If you live in the area and haven't visited the library for some time, please take a look and if you have children or grandchildren they would be very welcome too.

Barry road

Funding, which in the main is coming from the Welsh Assembly Government, isn't just going into the rural Vale – we have just announced £1 million worth of improvements to Barry's Thompson Street.

This will include the creation of a new road layout with new paving, drainage, lighting, trees, litter bins, bollards, CCTV and public art.

As well as improving the appearance of the area, the project will also create formal on-street parking areas for shoppers; improved facilities for bus services and safe crossing points with dropped kerbs for pedestrians.

The bulk of the work is expected to be completed by the end of August.



by Coun **GORDON KEMP**
Leader of the Vale Council

Mayor's charity coffee

THE Mayor of the Valeis holding a charity coffee morning at St Helen's Church Hall, Wyndham Street, Barry, on Tuesday, February 23, at 10.30am-12noon. All proceeds will go to National Coastwatch at Nell's Point.

Weatherman (and mum-in-law) on a Peru trek for charity!

S4C weatherman Chris Jones is marking his 20th year reporting the weather by trekking along one of the seven wonders of the world – with his mother-in-law!

He will be travelling to Peru to walk along the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in aid of Velindre Hospital and will be joined by mother-in-law Mags Stevens (65).

Chris (46), and Mags, of Ogmore-by-Sea, have been in strict training for their marathon walk!

"I've been a weather presenter for 20 years on S4C and I've been looking to do something worthwhile to commemorate that," said Chris, who is married to Lou and has four children Llinos (19), Gwen (17), Jamie (12), and Lily-Haf (eight).

"I saw this trek for Velindre Hospital. Both my parents, Eric and Iris, and my father-in-law Stan have all been treated for cancer at Velindre, so we're doing the trek to Peru because of our connection with the hospital."

Chris and Mags leave on May 5 for the trek organised by Velindre, during which they will spend 10 days in Peru and walk for six along the Inca Trail to the lost city.

To sponsor Chris visit www.justgiving.com/chris-jones11.



***RIGHT:** Chris and Mags step out on a training walk.*

Valeways guided walks

On Sunday, February 20, 2pm, Wrinstone Mediaeval Village, meet near Wenvoe Warms, Wenvoe (Di and Linda 01446 749000).

Thursday, February 24, 1.30pm, 'Magical Meanders' Start at footbridge near Sportsman's Rest, Peterston-Super-Ely. (Graham 07908 924576).

Further proof that it pays to advertise in your local GEM!

FURTHER proof of the pulling power of The GEM has come from two of our advertisers, who were delighted by the response to their recent adverts in the original '*priceless*' newspaper.

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"*I had such a good response to my advert in the January dining feature – it was like Christmas all over again!*" reported Ahayale, Oasis Mediterranean Resturant, Broad Street, Barry.

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STUDENTS CONSIDER THEMSELVES AT HOME IN THEIR BRAND NEW THEATRE!

REVIEW by PHILIP IRWIN
PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK

TWO years ago, Cowbridge Comprehensive School migrated to Porthcawl for a rousing production of *Les Miserables*.

A big stage, big set pieces and an audience of more than 600 made for a memorable evening.

Now, the school has its own theatre, seating about 260, and it was a much more intimate venue for this year's excellent production, *Oliver!*

Everyone in the audience is close to the action – the front rows especially.

It must be quite unnerving for the younger cast members to find a sea of faces within 10 feet or so.

However, on the evening I attended (Wednesday), there was no evidence of any nerves. In fact, after about eight years of watching school productions for The GEM, it occurred to me that I now take for granted that the performers will be word perfect.

I simply can't recall the last time that I saw anyone stumble over their lines – and the Cowbridge pupils were no exception.

Oliver!, of course, is a real crowd pleaser, and it has the advantage that everyone knows the characters well. That familiarity comes from the film version, with Ron Moody as Fagin and Jack Wild as the Artful Dodger and it is a bit of a two-edged sword.

The audience knows the show, which is good, but for the performers it means that they will be compared to some seriously good performances!

So, congratulations to Rhys Jenkins (Fagin) and Richard Wilks (Dodger) who stepped out and stamped their personality on the roles.

In the case of Rhys, his dialogue scenes were good and, when it came to the songs, his diction was clear and his comic timing was very promising.

His big test was, of course, 'Reviewing the Situation' and he did a fine job on a difficult song.

Richard Wilks, as the Artful Dodger, looked very much at home on stage. He can sing, dance and is a natural leader.

In the same way that the Fagin's young thieves take their cue from the Dodger, the younger cast members were taking their cues from Richard.

Oliver! has its own pantomime villain, of course, in Bill Sykes, and Matthew Whiteley got his teeth into this role. He relished stomping around the stage theatening all and sundry. He well and truly earned his chorus of boos at the curtain call!

However, while Bill Sykes is a great role to play, he does pose a problem, and it was one I raised with the show's director, Amanda Campbell, the head of drama.

The problem is, how do modern girls view Nancy's relationship with Bill Sykes? As girls get more assertive and confident, surely they would wonder why she doesn't just walk away from him?

It means that I always feel uneasy whenever Nancy sings 'As long as he needs me'. It's getting harder and harder to suppress the urge to shout out: "He's a psycho, Nancy, get out before it's too late!"

Amanda Campbell said that the girls playing Nancy (Melanie Stevens and Cate McHugh) had spent some time talking about the role, and felt that Nancy was a prisoner of her time, without the options open to modern women.

Perhaps as a result, it struck me that when I saw Melanie on stage, she presented a much darker version of 'As long as he needs me'. Her Nancy was a damaged girl who was clinging to a doomed hope that things might change – although deep down she knew that they would not.

Melanie, after several years with the Bridgend Youth Theatre, is a very accomplished actress and singer, and she brought out all the aspects of Nancy's character.

I should add at this point that I would have loved to have seen Cate's version, and did drop in on the previous night but fell victim to Murphy's Law, as Melanie did two nights in a row. However, people who saw the show on a different night tell me that Cate's Nancy was excellent.

There were other fine performances, with Ollie Hitchings and Asha Fletcher-Peters proving to be a fine comedy double act as Mr Bumble and Widow Corney, while I enjoyed Saskia Pay's over-the-top Mrs Sowerby.

There were two Olivers, and I saw Thomas Hill, who sang and acted the role very well. Simlarly, I am told that Callum Hill also did a fine job.

Musically, under the direction of Adrian Colborne, there were some fine moments. The orchestra (all pupils) were excellent, and I particularly enjoyed the arrangement of 'Who will buy?', which featured Megan Jones, Alice Sturgess-Webb, Asha Fletcher-Peters, Hannah Jones, Ellie Williams and Matthew Jenkins – among others.

To sum up, *Oliver!* confirmed that Cowbridge can look forward to more fine productions in the future, as there is plenty of talent in the pipeline.

There should also be a bright future for the venue. It should be suitable for a wide variety of shows, from musicals and plays, to cabaret and even stand-up.

The first concert, of course, was a week earlier, when Cowbridge Male Voice Choir performed. When The GEM spoke to the Mayor of Cowbridge and Llanblethian, Coun Len Taylor, he said that, as a member of the audience, he found it a fine venue for choral singing as well!

(See page 5 for a full cast list).



The full stage during rehearsals.







Rhys Jenkins as Fagin.



Richard Wilks as the Artful Dodger.









ABOVE: Melanie Stevens as Nancy, with Oliver.



Thomas Hill as Oliver (centre) with other cast members.



Bill Sykes (Matthew Whiteley) in full evil mode.

News in and out of class at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg



PICTURED ABOVE: Priya Gupta, Ffion Davies, Menna George and Megan Thomason.

Oxford bound!

CONGRATULATIONS to two year-13 students who have been successful in securing places at Oxford University for the forthcoming academic year.

Eleri Roberts from Barry will read philosophy and theology at Jesus College, while Gareth Davies from Dinas Powys will read medicine at Wadham College (See picture on right)..

Out of 1,500 who applied to read medicine this year, only 150 were chosen. We are naturally delighted to share both his and Eleri's success and wish them both well with their future studies.

Awards ceremony

TWO S4C and national network stars, Rhodri Owen and Emma Walford, were guest speakers at this year's award ceremony for GCSE and A-Level successes.

Both are prospective parents of the school and both gave fitting tributes to the efforts of staff and pupils in celebrating the school's best ever GCSE and A-Level results in the summer preceding our 10th anniversary celebrations.

'Discover' programme

CONGRATULATIONS to four year-9 girls, Priya Gupta, Ffion Davies, Menna George and Megan Thomason, who have been chosen to participate in the 'Discover' programme.

Four girls from each of the local schools have been chosen to attend workshops and science lectures in the University of Cardiff during 2011. Renowned scientists lead these activities in order to promote STEM.

Royal visit...

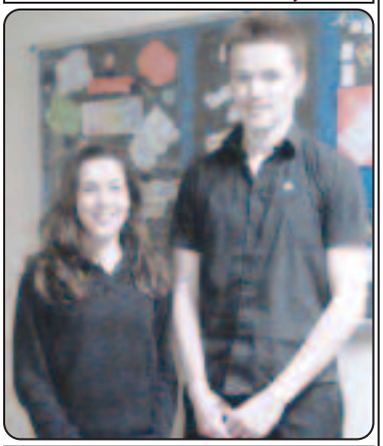
THE school was honoured to extend a welcome to The Prince of Lesotho, who visited Bro Morgannwg as part of the Dolen Cymru link.

While in school, the Prince had the opportunity to meet two year-12 boys, Richard Pilcher and Rhys George from Penarth, who will be undertaking voluntary work in Lesotho during the summer.

Pictured (top right) with the boys and the Prince is Dr Carl Clowes of Dolen Cymru. **MT**



ABOVE: Headteacher Dylan Jones with Emma Walford and Rhodri Owen at the GCSE and A-Level awards ceremony.



ABOVE: Eleri Roberts and Gareth Davies



PICTURED: Dr Carl Clowes of Dolen Cymru, Richard Pilcher, Rhys George and the Prince of Lesotho.

Young actors attend Boys Village premiere



FOUR young actors from Stagecoach Theatre Arts recently attended the world premiere of *Boys Village*, a new film drama at Cineworld, Cardiff, as part of the 2011 Ffresh Festival.

The four appeared in the film, written and directed by award-winning German film maker Till Kleinert, and shot last summer at the now-derelict Boys Village camp in West Aberthaw.

Kleinert wanted to cast local actors and approached Stagecoach, requesting suitable students to audition for the main roles.

The picture above, taken at the premiere, shows Till Kleinert (centre) with (from left) Jack Watkin-Jones, Lewis Coster, Andrew McQueen and Hannah-Rose Jones.



BARRY SHOPKEEPER DEFIES BAYONET-WIELDING ROBBER

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A COURAGEOUS proprietor of a Barry corner shop decided he was going to take no nonsense when two men, one armed with a WWII replica bayonet, tried to carry out a robbery.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that Satheesh Arumgam looked one of the raiders in the eye and as a result, he "lost his bottle" and fled. The other man was locked in the premises.

Ian Mackay (21) an unemployed trainee chef, of Barry, was sent to prison for two years and eight months and Peter Hardy (20) also of Barry, was sent to a young offender institution for two years and four months.

Each admitted a charge of attempted robbery.

Hardy also admitted possessing the bayonet.

Judge Stephen Hopkins said the bayonet was actually pointed at the shopkeeper's chin.

"Mr Arumgam was having none of it, and he gave Hardy such a look he was stopped in his tracks and he fled. Mackay was stunned by the shopkeeper's behaviour."

He told the pair: "Shopkeepers are entitled to the protection of the court from people like you.

"Mr Arumgam's behaviour was courageous to say the very least, and single-handed he drove you both off."

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that on Sunday, October 24, the two were wandering around Barry penniless.

"They hatched a plot to commit a robbery, and went to Hardy's home, where he collected a bayonet."

He said they targeted Barry Mini Market in Barry Road. Both covered their faces and Hardy went behind the counter, approached Mr Arumgam and produced a bayonet, which he brandished shouting: "Give me the money".

Mackay was standing near the entrance. But it was then Mr Arumgam looked Hardy in the eye and he ran.

The proprietor leapt over the counter with a baseball bat.

"Hardy realised this man was not a pushover."

They were arrested on November 11 and admitted the offence. Hardy pointed out that he didn't have a drink or drugs problem. Mackay said he was: "broke and homeless".

Mackay was said to have previous convictions for assault and theft and threatening to cause damage.

Hardy had no previous convictions.

David Purnell for Mackay said previous attempts by the courts to stop him committing offences had not been successful and he could not justify what had happened.

For two weeks, he continued, he had been without a home and had lost his right to benefits.

"All his relationships have been fractured, and his life became a disaster, but he is beginning to mature and there is hope for the future. He has learned his lesson."

Jeanette Treharne for Hardy said: "The offence was utterly out of character. At the time he was clearly depressed and estranged from his family. He accepts he went into the shop with a weapon, but when he saw the look the shopkeeper gave him, he desisted. He knows it has to be custody."

She said he had been of former good character. Because of his depression, he had once been admitted to hospital after taking a drugs overdose.

But, said Ms Treharne, he was back with his family, who were supporting him and his remorse was genuine.

Roman Catholic priest will be remembered as 'caring, lovely man'



ABOVE (left to right):
Fr Pierce Maher, Rev Heather Weddell, and Canon Derek Belcher pictured together at a recent Churches Together in Cowbridge event. (PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE WILCOCK).

THE death was announced last week of Father Pierce Maher, the Catholic parish priest for Llantwit Major and Cowbridge, and the news sparked a series of heartfelt tributes.

Father Maher had told his congregation some time ago that he was being treated for cancer, but he continued to be active in the parish and, only three weeks ago, he joined Churches Together in Cowbridge to sign a new 'mission statement' – emphasising how the different churches would work together.

Rev Heather Weddel of the United Free Church said: "He was a lovely man to know, and always put himself out for people.

"He always made a point of attending the Churches Together holiday club, and he really engaged with people of all ages.

"We knew he was ill, but on that evening three weeks ago I thought he looked much better, so his death has come as a shock."

She added: "However, he seemed at ease with the future and told me he was happy to go – in the Good Lord's time."

Canon Derek Belcher of Holy Cross Church, who was also at that signing, said: "This is devastating news. He was a very kind and faithful priest and was a good person to know. He was very open-minded, and I will miss his sense of humour."

The Mayor of Llantwit Major, Coun Ralph Austin, said: "I was shocked to hear of the loss of Father Maher.

"He had such a wonderful sense of humour and had a big smile and a cheerful greeting for everyone .

"He was a very caring man, and will be a great loss to the community."

The Rev Heather Weddel said that Fr Maher had a "real heart for ecumenism" and had been a great supporter of the Churches Together idea.

The chairwoman of Churches Together, Rosemary Samuel, a parishioner of Fr Maher's, told The GEM: "He had been at Our Lady and St Illtud for 12 years, and we were all very fond of him.

"He touched so many people, and I have been sent so many messages to pass on from people in other churches."

The GEM understands that there will be a private requiem mass in Llantwit, but a public requiem mass is to be held in All Hallows, Miskin, at 12 noon on Tuesday, February 22.

Book of condolence for Gavin and Stacey star

TOWN REMEMBERS BAFTA CYMRU AWARD-WINNING ACTRESS MARGARET JOHN

A book of condolence has been opened in Barry in which people can pay tribute to the Welsh Bafta award-winning actress Margaret John, who died recently.

The book will be available to members of the public over the next three weeks.

Lyndsay Ellis of Park Funeral Directors on Tynewydd Road explained: "It was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden passing of the actress Margaret John, who played the very comical Doris in Barry's very own Gavin and Stacey.

"Her contribution to the series helped put the town on the map.

"As recognition of this we have opened a book of condolence for any members of the community who wish to share their memories of her."

Mr Ellis also said a memorial service may be held in the town honouring Margaret.

"We are also in discussions with her managing company and family, discussing whether to hold a memorial service for her in Barry.

"In the meantime, the book of condolence will be at our office for approximately three weeks and all members of the community are welcome to come in and sign it and share their memories.

"It will then be presented to Margaret's family on behalf of the people of Barry."

Although Margaret became particularly well-known for the role of Doris, she had a distinguished career which included roles in many of Britain's top shows including Coronation Street, Last of the Summer Wine and Emmerdale.

In 2009, she received a Bafta Cymru Lifetime Achievement Award.

Fellow star, James Corden, described Swansea born Margaret as "a great actress and an incredible lady".

Interesting items from the cupboard!

A FASCINATING hobby was shared by the speaker, Mr Stephen Jarvis, with Southerndown WI members at the February meeting.

Mr Jarvis collects kitchen gadgets and brought quite an array with him.

Among the collection were several which could be found at the back of kitchen cupboards today. It was interesting to see a Kenwood Chef, the super, ultra, all-dancing electric mixer of its day, but the writer's favourite was a mould, its interior shaped in leaves and flower head relief. This was Monmouth pottery.

The price of some of the electric pieces of equipment were quite eye-opening, many would not pass health and safety rules today.

SOUTHERNDOWN WI NEWS

One wonders whether today's state-of-the-art items will be treasured and remembered nostalgically.

Business was dealt with by president Rhiannon Gaen, and names taken for spring council meeting in Porthcawl on May 4; also walks, craft events etc during the next few months, were discussed.

The next monthly meeting is on March 10, at 7.15pm in St Brides Major church hall. Val Weaver and Claire Davies will talk about fund raising for Macmillan nurses.

Th title of talk will be: 'Ain't no mountain high enough'.

BM

MP's no to prisoners' votes

THE Vale MP Alun Cairns voted against giving prisoners the vote in last week' Commons debate.

Mr Cairns reported: "It was a tense debate but there was no way that I could support the position taken by the European Court on Human rights to allow prisoners to vote.

"The government will have to bring a law before parliament later this year but last Thursday's vote will have left them in no doubt of how people feel".

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It's time to plan ahead with PASSMORES – make a Lasting Power of Attorney!

LAWYERS around Wales and England are running a national 'Make a Lasting Power of Attorney' campaign to encourage all people to plan ahead to avoid problems if they later lose mental capacity.

It means making a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) on the new version of the forms, which came into force in October 2009.

A Lasting Power of Attorney is a legal document that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.

There are two types of LPA: financial and welfare. Financial LPAs enable a person to act on behalf of another if, for example, they are ill or disabled and cannot act for themselves.

A welfare LPA enables a person to act on behalf of another if that person does not have the mental capacity to act for themselves, for example, in the case of a severe stroke.

Without an LPA, it may be necessary for family members to apply to the Court of Protection for authority.

This can be a distressing and lengthy process and is far more expensive than making an LPA.

Once all parties have signed the LPA, they must then be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian before they can be used.

Carli Evans of Passmores Solicitors, and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly, is actively encouraging all people to plan ahead and make Lasting Powers of Attorneys.

People wishing to discuss their requirements should contact Carli Evans to arrange a suitable no obligation appointment on 01446 721000, or by email ce@passmores.com.



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The talk will be at Brynhill Golf Club, Barry on March 2, at 10.30am. To book a space, call Louise on 0845 250 8420.

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Age Concern Morgannwg
Principality House
Rear of 31 Taff Street
Pontypridd, RCT. CF37 4TR
Time: 9.30am - 4pm (Monday-Friday)

Age Concern Morgannwg's brand new nail cutting service

AGE CONCERN Morgannwg, a locally based charity, has launched a new nail cutting service, with the help of a small grant from The W G Edwards Foundation.

This new service will complement the existing services the charity currently offers: Hospital Discharge Service; Community Outreach Primary Care; Advocacy; Support Plus Domestic Cleaning; Information and Advice; Supporting People; Ageing Well; Residential Activities Project.

The aim of this service is to provide a community-based nail cutting service for adults aged 50 years and over who cannot cut their own toenails or fingernails, due to mobility or sight problems.

Age Concern Morgannwg will be running the nail cutting service from two locations within Rhondda Cynon Taff.

The surgeries will be held every Wednesday at Age Concern Morgannwg's Offices in Pontypridd (opposite the bus station) and Bryn Ivor Complex, Bryn Ivor Street, Llwynypia. *Appointments can be made by calling 01443 490650.*

There will be a charge for this service and permission may need to be obtained by a GP.

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'Know Thyself' inscription at the Temple of Apollo, 2nd century BC

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Even a cat of eight years would have approximately another 10 years of life, which might suit a much older person and give loving companionship.

All our cats have been neutered and microchipped. Some are a little nervous as they are used to older people who might have had to give them up to go into homes themselves, leaving their companion behind.

These would adapt to a quiet, loving home environment.

Currently, we have an abundance of cats who are desperately in need of a new family or people to care for them.

For an appointment or further information, please telephone Maesteg Animal Welfare Society on 01656 721496, 01656 653456 or 01656 667463. (Please leave a message on our answerphone if we are not available)

If you have donations, bric-a-brac or any unwanted items, please call our shop on 01656 738977 / 721496.

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Enjoying your retirement is simpler than you think – contact us today on 01446 772212 (Cowbridge) or 01656 653122 (Bridgend).

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Get a spring in your step!

CHIROPODIST Kath Richards says: "I would like to thank everyone for their positive response and support following my recent advertisement.

"Now that spring is approaching, I am happy to help prepare those winter feet ready for the sandal season. If you have problems with corns or callus now is the time to start treating them or, if you just have trouble cutting your nails, give me a ring.

"Remember – Healthy feet are Happy Feet!"

*For further information on home visits, please telephone **07875 578 674** or **01446 792 118** and to book an appointment to be seen at Roz's, please phone **01446 793 040** quoting Kath.*

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

MAKING LIFE EASIER...

Club looks back on a very hectic 12 months!

News from Cowbridge (Gateway) Monday Club
(affiliated to Mencap)

ANOTHER active year has passed for the Monday Club, which meets monthly on a Monday in Ramoth chapel hall, Cowbridge, offering social evenings for over 16-year-olds with learning disabilities.

Events included visits from dog handlers, a group of singing students from Atlantic College (for the harvest supper evening), a highly-skilled potter with his wheel and a magician at the Christmas party.

There was a visit to the Amelia Trust Farm, and a 'walkabout' quiz in Cowbridge town centre.

The 32nd annual dinner was held in March at the Bear Hotel, with the Half Tidy group providing all-singing, all-dancing entertainment to round off the occasion.

The summer outing, always a mystery trip until the last minute, took place in June to the Cotswold Wildlife Park near Cirencester.

A number of the club members went in December to the Porthcawl pantomime and took an active part in the show!

Sadly, in November, Sally Brown died unexpectedly. She was a founder member of the club when it started more than 30 years ago, and she always loved the dancing and singing especially. She is very much missed.

The club has thanked Cowbridge and Llantwit Major Lions who give their time and transport, as well as hosting certain events.

Members are looking forward to the annual dinner in the Bear Hotel on March 14.

For further information about the club, contact Betty Alden on (01446) 773373, or Ann Roach on 781309.

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WORK OF THE AMELIA FARM TRUST PRAISED

AN exhibition celebrating the work of Amelia Trust Farm, held at the Pier Head in Cardiff, has won the support of Plaid AM Chris Franks.

The South Wales Central regional AM said: "The Amelia Trust Farm has done valuable work since 1991, particularly in helping young people aged between 13 to 16 years old from all walks of life.

"Director Lorraine Brown told me about the beacons for public engagement project at the farm.

"The scheme helps to equip young people with the skills necessary to video blog about their experience at the farm, and to understand how being at the farm impacts upon the way they view their future.

"This will be shared at an All-Wales conference later this year"

SLEEP IS THE CHIEF NOURISHMENT IN THE FEAST OF LIFE
Quality Welsh Beds
Hand Built By Craftsmen

The Bed Company Wales invites you to take a peek at its hand made beds inside its Cardiff Workshop...
Company Director, John Badham Davies, is an individual with a driving passion for bespoke, made to measure divan beds.
The Company was founded more than ten years ago by a group of individuals who were made redundant, when Best Assured Beds closed.
"What sets us apart from any other Bed Company is a combination of our craftsmanship, experience and personal service", explains John.
"We focus on building beds just as they did one hundred years ago but with a sharp eye on the customers need for a stylish piece of furniture".
An individual bed can have 1258 springs, each is wrapped in its own individual pocket comprising of cotton, wool and natural hair.
The hand sewing of the border to the spring unit guarantees controlled support for a healthy and beneficial nights sleep.
Part of the service includes customers offering their own designs and to view the bed being made. In fact any visit to the showroom will be accompanied by the sound of the beds being built next door. So along for a visit and see for yourself what makes this local company such a unique experience.
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Trooper Adam is lining up for service in Afghanistan

A CORNTOWN soldier has been preparing for possible deployment to Afghanistan later this year.

Trooper Adam Priddle recently completed an advanced combat marksmanship test.

The former Cowbridge Comprehensive pupil is with B Squadron, 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards, (The Welsh Cavalry).

He is currently a gunner in a sabre troop, operating on Scimitar light reconnaissance vehicles.

An army spokesman explained that Adam's squadron is likely to take up a role in Afghanistan later this year on either Scimitar or the Jackal-protected patrol vehicle.

"All soldiers of B squadron are being put through their paces on various weapon systems in order to become efficient firers at all ranges from a variety of shooting positions."

Having spent two years at the British Möhnesee Sail Training Centre (BMSTC) in Northern Germany as a watersports instructor, Adam's first week back couldn't have been more different.

With a wetsuit swapped for full combats, he was soon having to fire and hit targets up to 400m away.

Trooper Priddle who joined the army six years ago and deployed to Iraq on Operation TELIC in 2005, has also previously served in Afghanistan and exercises in both Canada and Italy.

Despite being away for two years, the Welsh Trooper's shooting was still of a good standard, achieving a high score and only being five shots away from qualifying as a marksman, a spokesman said.

"With an increasing emphasis on the need for accurate shooting, due to the nature of operations in Afghanistan, the British Army places a high emphasis on its range training programme."

Adam commented: "I was a little worried at first, but I was soon relieved to see that I was still able to shoot well, despite not having fired for about two years".



TROOPER ADAM PRIDDLE.

"There has been a step-up in the need for accurate shooting, so I am looking forward to improving my score, as we progress through further ranges over the coming months."

Having previously served in Afghanistan, he has mixed emotions about his potential deployment to Afghanistan.

He said: "I'm a little apprehensive, but looking forward to getting on with my job and trying to do my part to help the people of Afghanistan, though I will miss friends and family while I am deployed."

Ogmore AM opens Pencoed's brand new community shop

OGMORE AM Janice Gregory has opened the new Pencoed Community & District Shop, brainchild of local resident and former businesswoman Linda Edwards.

The shop will donate the profits to local charities and will also enable members of the community to buy specialist medical equipment, which is often beyond the financial limits of many people.

Janice Gregory said: "In these challenging financial times, charity shops are a great way to recycle, and community charity shops are an even better way to give something back to the community.

"I am sure the generous townspeople of Pencoed will rise to the challenge and not only donate good quality items, but also spend their money in the shop – where today I saw some real bargains"

Linda Edwards added: "So many people have helped me to realise my dream of opening a shop which would be able to help local charities such as the Guides, Scouts, football and rugby teams and others.

"I hope the people of Pencoed will patronise the shop, as we can do so much for so many good causes, and the more money we take, the more money we can donate"



Cutting the Ribbon. Photo: Janice Gregory AM, Linda Edwards, Coun Mike Gregory.

If anyone would like to volunteer their time or make a donation of any kind to the shop please contact Linda on 01656 863974 or 07582 575884.

IT'S CHOCS AWAY FOR MACMILLAN!

THE Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Rhoose branches of Slimming World held a 'chocolate amnesty' over Christmas and donated all their boxes of sweets and chocolates to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Sue Pickin, fundraising manager for Macmillan went along to meet the Cowbridge group to collect the unwanted calories and said:

"I would like to say a huge thank you to all the members of the groups for their resolve over the Christmas period, which I definitely would not be able to match!"

"All the boxes of chocolates will be used as raffle prizes to enable us to raise more money to help local people living with cancer.

"There are two million people affected by cancer in the UK today and this figure is set to double by 2030.

"Macmillan aims to be there for patients and their families and carers throughout their cancer experience, helping to make life easier through medical, emotional, financial and practical support.

"We cannot do this without the support of the public, which is why this donation of chocolate is so very welcome," she added.

***RIGHT:** Some of the donated boxes of sweets and chocolates that are being raffled to raise funds for the Macmillan Cancer Support charity*



Llantwit Major beach charges

WITH regard to proposals to charge for parking at Llantwit Major beach, I find the issue extremely infuriating.

I see it as just more bureaucratic interference with our daily lives. Please can some one enlighten me as how charging people to use the beach is going to prevent visitors who deface the meadow from doing so?

These people normally get down to the beach in the evenings, when the person who is supposedly going to collect the money and create a 'presence' will probably be long finished.

So who is going to charge these people and give them a good old telling off? The answer is no-one.

The council needs to wake up and start involving local people who use the beach 365 days a year.

For example, why not try asking the local surfers what they think is the best idea? There you have a good age range of people – from 13 years to 50 years old, who I'm sure will be more than happy to offer better suggestions than people who probably never use the beach.

Last summer, the council decided to erect that yellow eyesore of a barrier in the field – which made absolutely no difference whatsoever, apart from barring old folk that have been coming down the beach in their motor homes for the last 30 years from using the beach.

The problem is people who drive down in their cars which fit nicely under the barrier.

If the council thinks that charging visitors to use the beach will help, why not still make it free for locals?

They could give everyone who lives in the town some kind of pass which lasts for a year.

Then they will not be persecuting locals who actually care about their beach and keep it tidy.

Alistair Jones
Llantwit Major

Let's twin with Haiti!

HAVING recently returned from a fact-finding trip to Haiti, I would like to endorse the idea of Barry being twinned with Port au Prince, as suggested in your newspaper by Godfrey Knight some months ago.

Just over one year on from the devastating earthquake, Haiti is still a country in terrible turmoil.

I was able to visit food distribution projects, agricultural training centres, counselling programmes, and an initiative that has so far reunited nearly 900 children with parents separated from them due to the effects of the earthquake.

I have also been sponsoring a child in Haiti since my first visit there in 2002, and will be shortly undertaking a tour of the USA to encourage churches to sponsor Haitian children.

Mr Knight's challenge to the town of Barry, is one that if accepted, would launch Barry into being one of the most innovative, compassionate, and global towns in the UK!

Rev Nigel James
Dinas Powys

'Gravel paths a waste of money'

THE local council go to great lengths to advise us that they need to make cuts in essential services and staff, in order to work within their budget.

However, we are nearing the end of their financial year and as usual, they always seem to manage to pull cash out of the hat to squander on things that are not really essential.

I refer to the new footpath that is at present being carved out on Friars Point, on land opposite the slope that leads down onto the beach and continuing along the headland in front of Friars Point House – when it then comes to an abrupt halt where it joins the path that leads along to the harbour wall at the Old Harbour.

There is also a new footpath being installed near the old Coastguard Station on Nell's Point.

These two headlands have their own natural craggy beauty, which over the years has been enjoyed by the local population and visitors alike because of this fact. Criss-crossing them with gravel or tarmac pathways may make them easier to walk in bad weather, but certainly detracts from their beauty.

I am sure there are lots of ways in which the money being spent on this project could benefit not only the community, but also this town – which is going downhill so fast that no one seems able to stop it.

How can the Vale Council justify spending cash on these paths which really are not needed – when for instance, driving around this town is like driving in Beirut with all the potholes in need of repair?

I could go on, and on, and on!

Joy Strangward
Barry

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Gwaun y Nant Eisteddfod

A DAY of keen competition was enjoyed at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant recently, during the annual school eisteddfod.

Pupils of all ages competed in a variety of competitions, ranging from singing and recitation to handwriting and art and craft.

The adjudicator, Mrs Carys Williams, praised pupils for the high standard of performances and wished the winners well in the regional eisteddfod which will be held at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg on March 19.

CAFWYD diwrnod o gystadlu brwd yn Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant yn ddiweddar yn ystod Eisteddfod blynyddol yr ysgol.

Cafodd y beirniad, Mrs Carys Williams, ei phlesio gan safon y castadlu a dymunodd yn dda i'r enillwyr pan fyddant yn cynrychioli'r ysgol yn yr Eisteddfod Gylch sy'n cael ei chynnal ar y 19eg o Fawrth yn Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.



Pictured here, from left to right, are: Tia Weston who was deemed the Musician of the Eisteddfod; Emily Baker who won the 'chair' competition for writing a story; and victorious house captains Joseph Battè and Tamia Magrin.

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i Tia Weston a gafodd ei gwobrwyo fel Cerddor yr Eisteddfod, Emily Baker am ennill cystadleuaeth y Gadair, ac i gapteiniaid llys buddigol Cadog, Joseph Battè a Tamia Magrin.

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Save our libraries'

WE are all aware that an age of austerity is upon us, and local authorities will have to economise in the services they provide; we will now enter a period when priorities will be examined, with inevitable controversy.

The Vale Council is already discussing the future of our few mobile libraries, and they are sure to review our four permanent libraries (though possibly not before the next election).

To close any of these libraries would be to remove one of the brightest stars in their crown.

A wise man (or perhaps he was a woman) wrote that a house without books is like a room without a window, and to close a library is akin to the burning of the books.

When I visit my library at Llantwit Major, I am greeted by a group of smiling and extremely efficient ladies (and the occasional male).

The building is a hub of activity, but my needs are soon catered for.

Books are now expensive, particularly children's books, so a library is a lifeline to a literate population (and electorate).

I now look forward to a reply from a councillor that no such vandalism is envisaged, but I am reminded that a few years ago, the young ladies of the town took their children's pushchairs to the streets to protest at the lack of a by-pass.

Without wishing to be rude, some of these ladies may be past it, but it may happen that their children will have to take to the streets again.

If so, I'll see you in King Square, by the splendid new Barry Library...

Vivian Kelly,
Llantwit Major,

Praise for new library (and staff)

I WENT into Cowbridge Library on a recent Saturday morning.

Congratulations to all the staff and the Vale Council for a fantastic job updating the building and its facilities.

The library now has the feel of an upmarket book shop, with more creature comforts, such as a coffee machine and comfy chairs!

Congratulations in particular to Melanie and her team for getting the library looking tip-top and for the supportive role of the staff in familiarising library users with the new look and the self-service machines for borrowing and returning books.

The children's section of the library is delightful and will encourage an interest in books from an early age.

Well done to the team.

Kate Hawkins,
Llandow.

Praise for the NHS here in Wales

I WRITE to express my surprise at the views Alun Cairns has expressed in his GEM columns 'Vale MP's Viewpoint'.

My experience of the NHS in Wales does not correspond with his views. During a recent illness I could not have had better care: From my first visit to my GP at Court Road Surgery through the hospital tests, diagnosis and treatment, everyone was helpful, friendly and efficient.

Obviously, the NHS is a big organisation so there may be parts of it that could be better managed and areas that could be improved.

However, to imply that the whole Welsh NHS is flawed and that everything with the English NHS is perfect is misleading.

The system the UK coalition government is implementing in England is putting the English NHS under a severe strain, and it is yet to be seen if will result in improvements for the patients.

Robert Bowyer
Barry

Don't risk children's safety on the roads!

THE recent decision of the Vale Council to consider the possibility of removing school crossing patrols is difficult to believe.

It appears that the council considers the safety of vulnerable children to be less important than the rest of the community.

Is the council aware that the UK child pedestrian death rate is poor and is worse than 10 other EU countries? It is eight times worse than in Sweden.

A study at Royal Holloway College, University of London found that children aged 6–11 couldn't make a reliable guess at a car's speed above 20mph due to low level visual detection mechanisms (*Observer*, February 13).

Are we to rely on the poor judgement of children and the worse judgement of some inconsiderate and impatient motorists on our busy roads to ensure our children's safety?

The Vale Council has a duty to seriously consider the views of the people that they represent. Its decisions should be intelligent and thoughtful.

Gareth Jones,
Barry

Remembering the *FROLIC* disaster

ON Thursday, March 17, it will be the 180th anniversary of the loss of the south Wales/Bristol packet paddle steamer *FROLIC* on the Nash Sands, near Marcross, en route from Haverfordwest to Bristol via Pembroke Dock, Milford Haven and Tenby.

The ship had in all about 80 persons on board, and not a soul survived.

It was the worst recorded passenger ship disaster on the Bristol Channel: 1831 may seem a very long time ago, but many of the victims are buried in the local churchyards in the vicinity of the disaster including as far inland as Cowbridge.

If sufficient members of the public wish to attend a simple ceremony of placing a wreath in the sea, a midday meeting might be arranged.

I am in contact with Trinity House about the possibility of a tour of the lighthouse.

It was as a direct result of the *FROLIC* catastrophe that the lighthouses were built and opened a year later in 1832.

For a coastline of such outstanding natural beauty, the sea and the rocks took a terrible toll of shipping over the centuries.

Interested parties may contact me by e-mail: brian_keitch2002@hotmail.com or by texting 07982862671.

Brian Keitch,
Penarth

Welcome chance to shop around

OVER the past weeks, I have read numerous letters objecting to Sainsburys opening a small shop opposite Romilly Schools in Barry.

Well, I'm sorry if I upset these people, but I like a lot of others, welcome the idea of a new shop in the vicinity, one where the old and young can shop without being charged over the top prices because they can't get to Morrisons or Tesco, or that doesn't shut at 4pm or half day Wednesday.

They objected to the 'Co-op' at the Weycock Cross garage coming, but it is constantly busy and a Godsend to those that live near.

And yes, there will be delivery vans for Sainsburys, but surely there are for the Lifestyle Express also, or do they not have deliveries?

So yes, I want Sainsburys and I will still shop at Park Crescent if they have something to offer me; but I also welcome the chance to shop around.

Cwm Talwg resident
(Name and address supplied)

Out and About with The GEM

COEN BROTHERS' TRUE GRIT EARNS ITS SPURS AS A WESTERN PAR EXCELLENCE!

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

HAVING hit something of a purple patch since their Oscar success with *No Country For Old Men*, the hype on anything that the Coen brothers set to their mind to is high.

However, few would have predicted their next move after the mid-life crisis maelstrom that was *A Serious Man*, the brothers would look to the old West for inspiration.

Charles Portis' novel *True Grit* has, of course, already been adapted for screen once before, earning John Wayne an Academy Award into the bargain, but the Coens obviously felt that they could bring something to the table, the film garnering huge awards buzz already.

When the father of 14-year-old Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld) is murdered by Tom Chaney (Josh Brolin), the authority's lack of urgency on the matter of catching him means that Mattie must look for someone to capture him for her.

Recruiting grizzled US Marshal 'Rooster' Cogburn (Jeff Bridges) the pair, accompanied by Texas Ranger LaBoeuf (Matt Damon), set off to find Chaney, and each of them find themselves tested on the journey...

The last time the Coen brothers entered 'remake' territory (although it should be noted that *True Grit* is an adaptation of Charles Portis' novel rather than the John Wayne film), the result was *The Ladykillers*, an underwhelming and peculiar film that despite having all their hallmarks, just didn't quite work.

So is *True Grit*, with it being shadowed to a degree by the 1969 version, another muddled offering from the brothers? Far from it, the end product being not just perhaps the finest Western to hit screens since *Open Range*, but also an absolutely captivating piece of work in its own right that banishes memories of the previously filmed work.

The screenplay remains faithful to Portis' work and mines the strong narrative for all it can, while the brothers add their own particular mix of flavours to proceedings to make for a heady mix.

There are moments of comedy, dark and not so dark, that temper the grittiness of the narrative, a typical Coens' tic, mining humour from all manner of situations but making it fit in the context of the story.

They also add all manner of small details that add to the fabric of the story, from characters that vanish as soon as they appear (the dentist wearing a bear skin) to the behaviour and language of those on the periphery of the story.

The language of the piece crackles with zest and beauty, with lines that almost dance off the tongue and every piece of dialogue feels vital, the brothers opting for economy rather than gratuity.

Despite never having helmed a western before, the brothers are on familiar ground – after all, *No Country For Old Men* has all the tropes of the western bar horses, saloons and six-shooters – and their script moves with a confidence and trust in the material that means it never wavers or detours anywhere it shouldn't.

Visually, the brothers, with the aid of their regular director of photography, the perpetually-impressive Roger Deakins, shoot with a keen eye for the genre, all rolling landscapes, parched vistas and campfires, but never lose sight that the story is about a quest for justice rather than your usual white hat/black hat narrative.

The direction is muted but not lacking, the emphasis being placed wholly on the characters and the performances, rather than the need for any fancy theatrics, while the climactic shoot-out opts for authenticity rather than OTT histrionics.

Given the cast, the Coens probably had little to do but allow the established actors to show up and deliver their best, but the ace in the hole is the hugely impressive and mesmerising Hailee Steinfeld as Mattie.

The young actress delivers a turn that is far beyond her years, befitting the character, and makes the abrasive youngster, whose determination to see right done is the over-reaching aim of the story, engaging and endearing in equal measure.

She reels off the fast moving dialogue with huge confidence and holds her own against her fellow cast members with unerring skill – the film, told from her point of view, is very much in thrall to her excellent performance.

Around her are top quality performances from established stars, with Jeff Bridges delivering a performance that ticks the grizzled rascal box – but above the surface bluster offers something far more dimensional and watchable.

With his love of booze and laissez faire attitude towards the criminal fraternity, Cogburn is the wizened hand to Mattie's youngster getting in over her head, and what is so wonderful about Bridges' performance is how he unravels the layers of Cogburn, as annoyance gives way to affection – the chemistry the pair share along the journey is very much the beating heart of the film.

Elsewhere, Matt Damon does a pleasing line in pompous bluster as LaBoeuf, the Texas Ranger who bristles alongside Cogburn's less than 'by the book' procedures, while Barry Pepper and Josh Brolin are all yellowing, rotted teeth and outlaw mentality as the rogues Cogburn is hunting down.

With a coda that brings a satisfying sense of completion to the whole story, with a touching and affectionate look at the impact the odyssey had on both Mattie and Rooster, the Coens wrap up proceedings with a subtle finality.

It is a suitable way to finish what is a truly excellent piece of work, a film that continues the Coens' great run and showcases performers at the top their game; after this, it's easy to say 'John who?'.

VERDICT – Simply one of the finest films yet to come from the Coen brothers and wonderful western in its own right, *True Grit* houses a star-making turn from Hailee Steinfeld and an outstanding one from Jeff Bridges.

With Matt Damon, Josh Brolin and Barry Pepper also delivering the goods, and the brothers offering up a faithful and engaging script to go with their excellent direction, there is little to fault in this incredible effort. *Essential viewing.*

Flower arranging

ON Wednesday, February 23, at 7.30pm, the Penarth Flower Arrangement Club is holding a demonstration evening with Linda Garratt from Abergavenny.

Her theme is 'All that Glisters...' The meeting is at the Masonic Hall, Stanwell Road, Penarth. Everyone is welcome, including prospective new members.

For further information, telephone Ann on 029 2070 3605.

Hall's AGM

THE Celtic Way Community Hall, Rhoose, management committee is holding its AGM on February 22 at 7pm, at the hall in Celtic Way.

Anyone who lives in Rhoose or Fontygary is very welcome.

A spokesman said: "We are looking for help in running the hall. Anyone who is interested should come along or contact David Harris on 01446 711300."

St David's Day fayre
Ffair Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant



PORTHCERI Centre will present its St David's fayre at 2pm on Saturday, February 26, opened by Courtenay Hamilton, the current Miss Wales.

Courtenay was brought up in Atlantic College, St Donat's, where her father is a teacher, and went to school in Barry at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

The 21-year-old is a singer in the same mould as Katherine Jenkins and travels to London regularly for lessons at the Royal Academy.

The fayre will feature many attractions, including cakes and refreshments, jewellery, ceramics and craft stalls, books, and a Fairtrade stand.

Positive Image Photographic Society and Baruc Art Group will be exhibiting paintings and photographs throughout the afternoon, and in addition PIPS will be demonstrating digital photographic 'tricks' for people to work on at home.

Displays by Cadoxton Tae Kwon Do club, the Desert Divas belly dance group, and entertainment from Barry Brass Band, will complete an action-packed afternoon.

Dinas Players in rehearsal for 'Lord Arthur Savile's crime'

Dinas Powis Players are rehearsing *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime,* adapted from an Oscar Wilde story by Constance Cox.

Andrew Gibbons plays Lord Arthur with Nicky Marsh, in her first acting part with the group, as Sybil, his young bride-to-be.

The couple are supported by Mike Jones, making a welcome return, as Lord Arthur's butler, together with group stalwarts husband and wife Derek and Dianne Hooper, Ann Croom, Sue Gibbons, Jane Rapier, Graham Russell and Nigel Streeter. *It will be directed by Eileen Carryer, at the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys on Thursday, March 31 and April 1-2.*

Stamp winners

THE winners of our recent Gerry Anderson stamps competition were: Anne Baxter, St Athan; Mr P Bowles, Dinas Powys; A Evans, Cowbridge; Christopher Spear, Penarth; Mrs G R Willimas, Pyle; Mrs A King, Pencoed; Mrs J James, Boverton; D P Lewis, St Brides Major; Amanda Lane, Barry; Norma Webb, Barry.

Congratulations and look out for more great GEM competitions!

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CHRIS FRANKS AM
Plaid Cymru Assembly Member
Representing Cardiff, The Vale and Rhondda Cynon Taf

ADVICE SURGERY
WHEN: Thursday 24th February
WHERE: Murchfield Community Centre
Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys
TIME: 4.30pm — 5.30pm

'Miss Vale' and 'Miss Bridgend' are crowned winners at The Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl

THE Miss Vale of Glamorgan and Miss Bridgend competitions were held at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion on February 11.

The participants used the competitions as a means of raising funds for south Wales' children's charity The Joshua Foundation.

The winner of the Vale title was Samantha Matthews, and Stephanie Lubbock won the Bridgend title. They will go on to compete for the Miss Wales crown.

Among the judges this year was the current Miss Wales, the Vale's own Courtenay Hamilton.



RIGHT: Stephanie Lubbock who won Miss Bridgend.





ABOVE: Courtenay Hamilton (left) with 'Miss Vale of Glamorgan' Samantha Matthews.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
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Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.







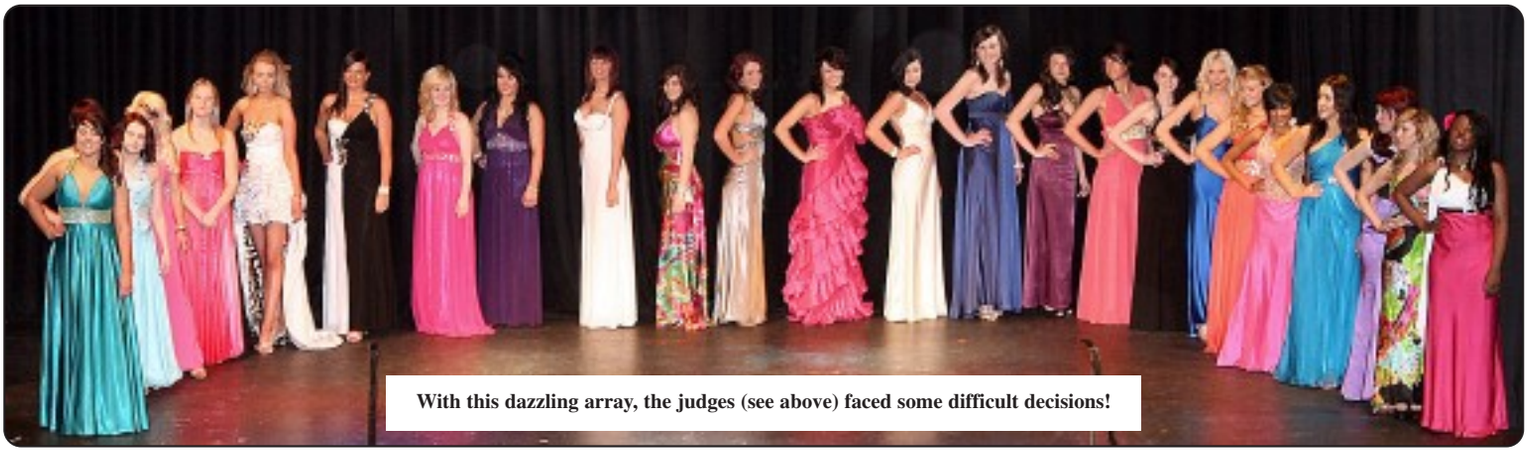


LEFT: The competitors take to the catwalk.









With this dazzling array, the judges (see above) faced some difficult decisions!

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Buying a new car – points to consider

UNLESS you plan on keeping your new car until waving it off to the recycling facility far into the distant future, it may be wise to consider the requirements of potential second-hand buyers.

That said, some options can seem like the perfect way to retain a car's value in the long term but can prove to be a money pit in the short term.

With this in mind, read on for a few of the major pitfalls to look out for:

Leather: There's nothing like a leather interior for comfort, and quality hide is still the hallmark of a luxury vehicle.

It does benefit from the occasional dose of TLC though, so if you rarely have time to give the interior a rub down, or your kids are likely to spill blackcurrant juice over your white hide, then it might be worth opting for cloth or a leather substitute instead.

Some premium manufacturers now offer ventilated leather seats and material specially treated to reflect heat, but if these advances are not available, then an air-conditioned interior is a wise choice in combination with leather.

Many manufacturers now offer part leather interiors, which can be an intelligent trade-off between practicality and comfort.

Spare wheel: An increasing number of manufacturers now include a temporary spare wheel or a can of tyre sealing gunk as a space saving alternative to a full size spare wheel.

Many drivers don't have confidence in these temporary measures however, and prefer to specify a full-size replacement wheel and tyre.

Temporary spare wheels are usually limited to a maximum speed of 50mph and to a range of 50 miles. Likewise, tyre repair aerosols can provide a less than ideal driving experience, with speed limited and the wheel balance often upset.

The emergency tyre kit included with a car can differ according to the individual model specification, so it's always worth asking. If you feel the temporary solution won't meet your needs, ask what the alternatives are.

Research says that new car buyers are going green

AS fuel prices rise, half of UK drivers have revealed that the next vehicle they purchase is likely to be a green one.

Research by moneysupermarket.com has revealed that 48 per cent of road users would consider a more fuel-efficient model the next time they purchase a car, while eight per cent claimed they would use public transport instead in order to save money.

Meanwhile, 67 per cent of Britons have admitted that the increasing cost of fuel, teamed with rising car insurance prices has had an impact on their attitude to driving.

Pete Harrison, car insurance expert at the website, said: "With escalating fuel prices hitting motorists hard in the pocket, I'm not surprised most are looking for ways to drive down the cost of getting behind the wheel."

Elsewhere, the DVLA, Motor Insurers' Bureau and the British Insurance Brokers Association are together reminding motorists that a new motor insurance law is being introduced in the spring, which will mean that even cars kept off the road will require cover, unless the DVLA has been informed.



SLEEK IS THE LOOK FOR NEW VEHICLES!



ABOVE: Renault Gordini.

RENAULT is planning to unveil the 'Wind Roadster Gordini' at the forthcoming Geneva Motor Show in March.

Following the launch of the Twingo and Clio Gordini models,, Renault's Wind Roadster is the next to receive special attention.

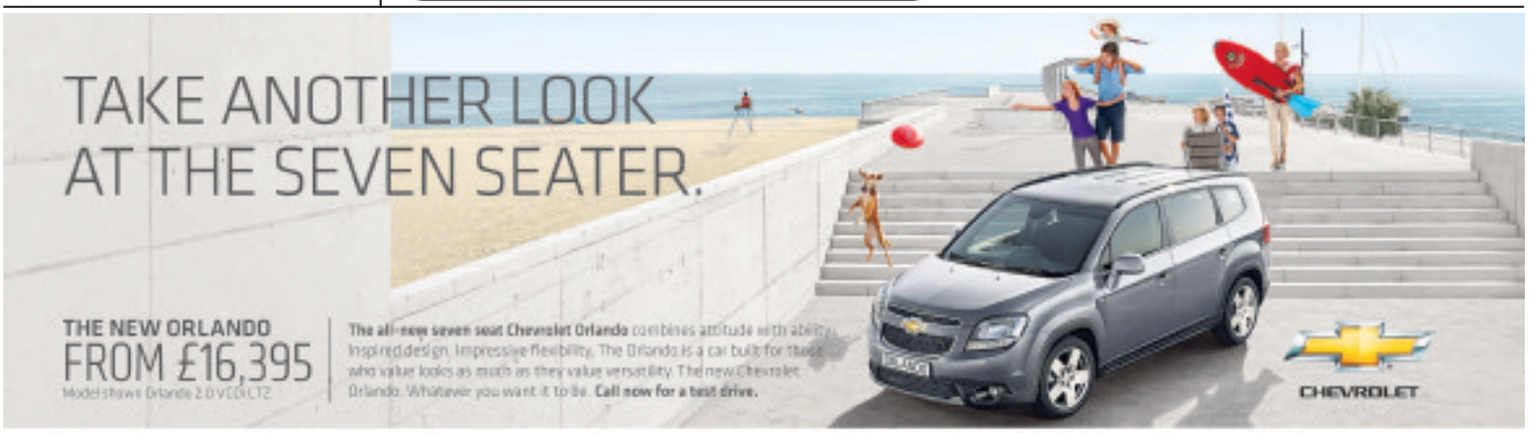
The coupe-roadster bears the Gordini colours and comes with 17-inch black diamond alloy wheels. It features Malta blue bodywork with trademark twin white stripes, Glacier white door mirrors, grille trim and rear wing, and a gloss black roof.

The cabin features special 'Gordini' black and blue leather upholstery, blue and white door straps and a blue leather steering wheel with the signature white stripes on the centreband.

A leather gear lever gaiter and polished metal gearknob bearing the Gordini name complete the look.

The car will receive its public debut at the forthcoming Geneva Motor Show in March.

LEFT:
Potential new car buyers have many things to weigh up when considering a purchase.
However, the increasingly aerodynamic look of new cars, such as this Ford, means that buyers have plenty of options if they want a motor that will turn heads – and save on mpg at the same time!



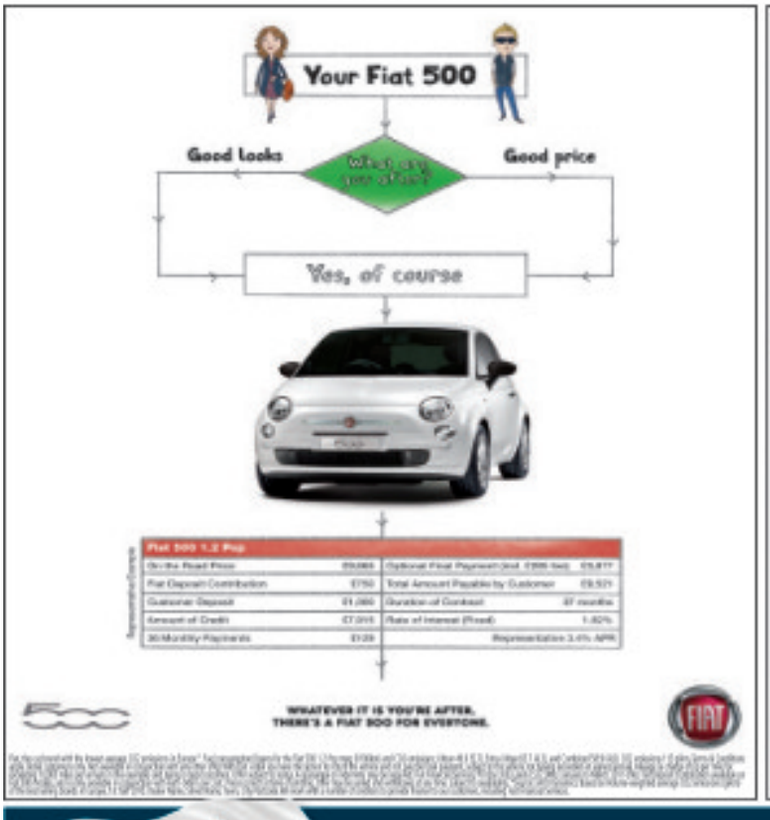
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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Orlando range: Urban - 29.1 (9.7) – 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 47.9 (5.9) – 57.7 (4.9), Combined - 38.7 (7.3) – 47.1 (6.0). CO_2 emissions 186 - 159g/km.

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HONDA JAZZ WITH HYBRID TECH: AS PRACTICAL AS EVER - WITH LOWER EMISSIONS



Bassetts Honda staff - always here for a helping hand.

Making its debut at the Paris Motor Show this week, the hybrid version of the Jazz features Honda's innovative petrol-electric IMA system and retains the practical characteristics found in the supermini, while lowering emissions and improving fuel economy.

- **World's first B-segment car with hybrid technology**
- **No compromise – features all the practicality of the standard Jazz**
- **Retains the flexible Magic Seats**
- **Up to 831 litres of boot space**
- **104 g/km of CO2 emissions***
- **Improved fuel economy offers up to 64.2 miles per gallon***



The Jazz will feature the same 1.3 litre i-VTEC as the Insight hybrid and despite its taller body shape, the new car has similar CO2 emissions of 104 g/km* - 21g/km less than the current lowest-emitting 1.2-litre petrol Jazz. As well as the environmental benefits, the cleaner emissions bring more affordable driving too: road tax exempt for the first year and just £20 a year after, the hybrid version of the Jazz will also be free from the London congestion charge.

"We think that a cleaner, more economical version of the Jazz will be a big hit with customers," said John Kingston, Government Affairs and Environment Manager, Honda (UK). "The IMA hybrid technology is incredibly easy to use, owners don't need to worry about plugging anything in to charge. It's simply a case of filling up with petrol and driving on as normal."

Like the Insight and Civic Hybrid models, the hybrid version of the Jazz will be capable of running on the electric motor alone under some medium and low speed conditions and this contributes to a combined fuel consumption figure of 64.2 mpg* - a 23 per cent improvement over the best-selling 1.4 ES model.

Honda has added this cleaner hybrid technology to the supermini while retaining the flexibility of its unique folding Magic Seats. The IMA battery pack and power control unit have been integrated in the area under the boot floor, keeping the normal boot area of 300 litres and allowing the Magic Seats to fold in the same manner as non-hybrid versions. This means that the seats still fold entirely flat to provide a surprising large boot space of 831 litres, or the seat bases can be folded to sit vertically to accommodate tall items within the car.

The Jazz with hybrid technology will be unveiled at the Paris Motor Show and will go on sale in the UK in early 2011. Prices, homologated emissions levels and full specifications will be announced at a later date.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Jazz and Civic Type S range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 22.2 - 43.5 (12.7 - 6.5), Extra Urban 51.4 - 65.7 (5.5 - 4.3), Combined 42.2 - 55.4 (6.7 - 5.1). CO_2 emissions: 155 - 125 g/km. **Price Point:** £9,995 price point applies to 11YM Jazz 1.2 S Manual (12YM excluded). £12,995 applies to Civic 1.4 Type S Manual. All price points exclude metallic paint (£440 extra). Offers valid on new retail cars registered from 1 February to 30 March 2011. Offers applicable at participating Dealers and are at the Promoter's absolute discretion. Subject to model, colour and stock availability, certain variants may be limited. **Honda Hire Purchase (HP):** Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe PLC, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Servicing:** 3 years complimentary servicing or 37,500 miles, whichever comes first, and includes a maximum of 3 services. Complimentary servicing covers the manufacturer's scheduled servicing only.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Clio 1.2 16V 3-door are: Urban 37.2 (7.6), Extra Urban 57.7 (4.9), Combined 48.7 (5.8). The official CO2 emission figure is 139g/km and for the Limited Edition Bizu range are: Urban 28.8–57.7 (10.1–4.9), Extra Urban 47.9–80.7 (5.9–3.5), Combined 38.2–70.6 (7.4–4.0). The official CO2 emission figures for the range are 174–109g/km. The above cars are personal lease finance used cars and the repayment rentals are based on the following example: 11 Plate New Renault Clio Bizu 1.2 16v 5-door, initial rental £149.99 followed by 36 monthly rentals of £149.99. Optional final rental of £5879.98. Annual mileage 5,000 miles. You may incur excess mileage charges if you exceed your agreed annual mileage. All rentals inclusive of VAT. Offers correct at time of going to press. Available from Renault Retail Group. Please contact your local branch or visit www.renaultretail.co.uk for full terms and conditions. Renault Retail Group are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Offers are not available in conjunction with any other offers and are correct at time of going to print. Models shown for illustration purposes only. Renault Retail Group reserves the right to change amend or withdraw these offers at any time without advance notice. *Delivery within a 25 mile radius of nearest dealership. Road Fund Licence is not included in the lease cost.

MAZDA'S HIGH-VALUE 2011 'TAKUYA' MODELS NOW ON SALE

- Takuya special edition models available soon in Mazda2, Mazda3 and Mazda6 ranges
- Highly specified versions Now on sale from £11,940 (OTR)
- Sports styling kit, enhanced interior specification, unique colours and 'special edition' exclusivity

Following on from the success of the 'Takuya Special Edition Range' introduced in mid-2010 for a limited period, Mazda is launching five 2011 'Takuya' models across the Mazda2, Mazda3 and Mazda6 line-ups with a total production volume of 3894 units.

The generously equipped Takuya models incorporate features normally only available with top-of-the-range derivatives. Also displaying extra visual appeal with attractive pricing, the Takuya quintet will be on sale from 1 February 2011 offering Mazda customers great added value.

"The 2011 Mazda Takuya range offers buyers genuine exclusivity, evocative sports styling and enhanced equipment, while representing fantastic value for money," comments Mark Cameron, Sales Director, Mazda UK. "Previous special edition Mazda models have proved hugely popular, selling fast and boasting impressive residual values. The Takuya range offers yet another reason for value-seeking consumers that want something different from the mainstream to head down to their local Mazda dealership this winter."

Cameron added: "Also in support of the Mazda2's high value quise, is the recent announcement that it came sixth in the Parker's Cost of Motoring report^. It is a great result and testament to the Mazda2's competitive price and great value. The Mazda2 lost just £2,022 and 23 percent of its original value according to Parker's deprecation statistics."

MAZDA2 TAKUYA - COMPACT AND SPORTY

Priced from £11,940 (OTR), the Mazda2 1.3-litre five-door Takuya is the entry point into the 2011 special edition range. With a price tag just £110 more than the Tamura model, this Takuya boasts the addition of front fog lights, black sports trim, rear electric windows, automatic climate-control air-conditioning, a Parrot Bluetooth® hands-free kit and a new rear bumper sports trim - to offer truly remarkable value.

MAZDA3 TAKUYA - ADDED APPEAL FOR POPULAR HATCH

Priced from just £16,695 the Mazda3 Takuya represents excellent value for money and promises low running costs with a combined fuel economy figure of 43.5mpg and low-for-class 149g/km of CO2 emissions.

MAZDA6 TAKUYA - HIGH-PERFORMANCE FAMILY FUN

Buyers with bigger families, will find Mazda6 Takuya special edition models available in three different guises: a 2.0-litre 155ps five-door (£20,495), 2.2D 163ps five-door (£21,675) and 2.2D 163ps Estate (£22,325).



Special finance offers until 31 March 2011

Mazda dealers are currently offering Mazda Takuya buyers three finance packages: 1. Typical 0% APR* finance on Mazda Conditional Sale (with a 50% minimum deposit) up to 36 months. 2. Typical 3.9% APR** finance on Mazda Conditional Sale and Mazda Personal Contract Purchase (no minimum deposit) up to 24 months. 3. Typical 5.9% APR** finance on Mazda Conditional Sale and Mazda Personal Contract Purchase (no minimum deposit) up to 36 months.

In addition to the special finance offers Mazda has recently introduced a new 'Have it All' campaign offering up to 3 years complimentary servicing, VAT fixed at the 2010 rate and customer savings on selected models. Customers purchasing a Mazda Takuya model on Mazda Personal Contract Purchase can have up to the first 3 services compliments of Mazda, included in the OTR price depending on which PCP finance term is taken, 24 or 36 months.

All Mazda Takuya models are also available with VAT fixed at the 2010 rate - this offer applies to the retail list price and excludes all factory fitted and dealer fitted options.

Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating dealers only on vehicles registered until 31 March 2011. *0% Finance available on Mazda Conditional Sale with minimum 50% deposit required. **3.9% and 5.9% finance available on Mazda Conditional Sale and Mazda Personal Contract Purchase. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services IRH Ltd.

^ The report is based on the average private resale values for 12 month-old cars with 10,000 miles on the clock.



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*Free servicing offer and 6.9% APR only available for new retail orders of model shown between 16 December and 31 March 2011 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ, before 30 June 2011 on a 3 year AccessToyota (PCP) plan. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Free servicing offer includes the first three scheduled services at an official Toyota Centre (every 10,000 miles or 12 months whichever is first). Terms and conditions apply. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services.

VALE UNDER-11 YOUNGSTERS REMAIN UNBEATEN OUT WEST





THE Vale of Glamorgan under-11 rugby team was on tour last weekend, returning with an unbeaten record, including a 7-7 draw against Carmarthen Schools at Carmarthen Athletic on Friday and a convincing 24-14 win over Aberystwyth Schools at Aberystwyth Rugby Club on Saturday.

In wet and slippery conditions at Carmarthen, the Vale backs looked to run the ball whenever possible, but with many handling errors due to the weather many attacking chances fizzled out.

The forwards took control and Reuben Williams emerged from a maul to score under the posts, taking three defenders with him and being driven well by Max Cunnington and Jack Lee. Bevan Howell converted.

Determined running by Luke Beattie, Iestyn Raven, Ben Jones, Rhys Jones and Harrison Ashby was supported well by Oli Rowbottom, Daniel Holden, Jac Roberts and Jack Little.

Carmarthen hit back from a Vale clearance kick to run in an unopposed try and conversion to make the final score 7-7 and a fair draw for both teams.

The following day in glorious sunshine, the Vale team started well as Bevan Howell was fed from a penalty to throw two dummies and score under the posts, converting himself for a 7-nil lead.

Aber hit back through their winger, scoring near the posts after Vale were penalised for handling in the ruck, and added the conversion.

After Vale lost the ball in the Aber 22, they gathered and sprinted a full 70 metres to score under the posts, with Joseff Williams just missing an ankle tap to halt him (14-7 to Aber).

The Vale backs were full of running and combined well through Ben Jones, Rhys Jones and Rhydian Williams to work Jo Williams clear to dive and score. Again the Vale hit back though the backs, fed expertly by Ioan Williams and Ioan Lewis, using their speed to outpace the defence and Rhydian Williams showed speed and strength, after being high-tackled, to still score. Bevan added the conversion, 14-19 in Vale's favour.



Vale were given a penalty for another high tackle and ran it through Rhodri Hopkins, Harrison Ashby and Bev Howell who popped the ball to the supporting Finlay Davies to crash over, making the final score Aberystwyth 14, Vale 24. A deserved victory for the whole squad.

Vale squad: Max Lucas, Reuben Williams, Cameron Roy, Oliver Rowbottom, Rhys DurLucia (captain), Jac Roberts, Ioan Lewis, Rhys Bradshaw, Harrison Ashby, Bevan Howell, Rhys Jones, Rhodri Hopkins, Joseff Williams, Ben Jones, Jack Little, Max Cunnington, Ioan Williams, Luke Beattie, Finlay Davies, Ellis Simon, Daniel Holden, Iestyn Raven, Rhydian Williams, Jack Lee.

Porthcawl sweep aside Morriston rivals

PORTHCAWL under-16s hosted a powerful Morriston side at Rest Bay in a vital Ospreys Cup game.

The visitors were at full strength, fielding their six Ospreys under-16s and four Swansea District players. They are one of the favourites to win the competition.

The young Seaweeds knew that they would be in for a battle and, although the home side were missing a number of Ospreys and District players, they were still able to field a strong side.

Right from the kick off, it was evident that the Seaweeds would have to play simple Cup rugby and defend the fringes well, as Morriston were going to use their big forwards to take the ball up at every opportunity.

The first 10 minutes were even as both sides were getting used to the pressure and conditions. After a number of good phases the young Seaweeds found themselves on Morriston's 22. A free kick was awarded to Porthcawl and prop Ben Smith ran onto the ball at pace breaking two tackles before sprinting down the line and scoring in the corner.

This seemed to motivate the home side and they began to take control of the game with some superb kicking and chasing. Due to the slippery ball, pressure was put on the Morriston back three at every opportunity. Following some sustained pressure Porthcawl had a number of rucks and mauls and the pressure finally told when scrum half Conor Rees picked up the ball and slid over the line. This was converted by Scott Govan.

Porthcawl's tactical play was taking its toll on Morriston and further 'go-forward' by the pack saw them camped on the opposition line again. Finally, Morriston turned over the ball, only for the outside half to make a mistake behind the line and flanker Iestyn Merriman raced to the ball and scored a great opportunist try. This was converted by Scot Govan and Porthcawl went into the break deservedly leading 19-0.

The second half saw the introduction of Porthcawl outside half Josh White, who has just been selected for the Wales under-16s' squad. From forward pressure, a ruck was formed in the Morriston half and after two phases the ball was spread out to Tom Bluck, who once again ran a superb angle to race through and score. This was converted by Josh White (26-0). The Seaweeds made a number of changes to give everybody Cup playing time and an infringement on the Porthcawl 22 led to a yellow card to White.

This immediately had an impact, as shortly after Morriston pounded the Porthcawl line with their big forwards and eventually scored a try which was converted. Five minutes later Morriston scored a replica of their first try.

Back to 15, the young Seaweeds then upped their game and the impressive Rees scored his second try of the game when he pounced on a mistake by the away side following excellent forward play. This was converted by White.

With the game won, the young Seaweeds took their foot of the gas and this allowed Morriston to score a try on the last play of the game, which went unconverted. The final score was 33-17 to Porthcawl.



Conor Rees passes from a scrum.

Team manager Paul Brown said: "The boys thoroughly deserved this comprehensive victory against a quality side. Although a number of players were unavailable this didn't impact on the team or the style of play and just goes to show what a great squad of players we have. We now look forward to our final Ospreys Cup group game away to Swansea Uplands on March 6.

Porthcawl will be running a youth side next season and new players will be welcome. A youth game will hopefully be arranged before the end of this season.



Wales under-16 squad members Josh White kicks a conversion.

Cadoxton Barry tears formbook to shreds

by NEIL WHITE

Tonyrefail BGC	**1**
Cadoxton Barry FC	**4**

BRIDGEND STREET had scored 10 unanswered goals against Cadoxton Barry at Jenner Park earlier in the season. On Saturday, Cadoxton Barry found themselves away from home and facing the only side to have beaten Bridgend Street in the league this season.

On paper this should have been a home banker. But, totally undaunted by statistics, Cadoxton Barry tore the form book to shreds as they took Ton to task from the opening moments through to the final whistle.

Early CB pressure earned a corner which Mitchell Sales curled in to set up a frantic moment in front of the Ton goal as two shots were blocked on the line in rapid succession.

With the Barry side continuing to press, Ton broke up field to create their first shot on goal as a May effort drifted just over the bar.

Then, for CB, Ross Matthews went on a solo run down the right before crossing to Christian Mills whose drive from twenty yards eluded the diving Richards in the Ton goal.

But it wasn't long before Harvey accidentally handled just outside the box in repelling one of Ton's rare attacks. The referee was still taking the wall back the required ten yards when Ton's May unexpectedly took the free kick, curling it over the wall and past the unprepared Norris for an equaliser that was allowed to stand.

Lifted by the goal, Ton started to see a little more of the ball, forcing Norris to pull off a great instinctive save as the CB rearguard lost concentration for the only time in the match. Then May was only just wide with an opportunist shot. Back came CB as a Matthews cross was only a whisker away from connecting with Mills' head with an open goal begging.

In the next attack, Richards raced out of his box to clear an incoming ball. The high bouncing ball came off his knee to clearly hit an outstretched arm - an act that went unspotted by the referee, allowing the Ton keeper to remain on the pitch for the remainder of the game.

Indeed, Richards was among the action almost immediately as he brought off a brilliant finger tip save from an equally brilliant 25-yard dip from Aiden Lewis.

The second half started with Matthew Bickley replacing Harvey who had suffered an eye injury just before the break. And it was a long and high bouncing ball from Bickley that gave Mills the opportunity to put CB back into the lead as he lobbed the advancing Richards. Only seconds later he almost repeated the performance.

Barnet then went close with a low drive before the tireless Baker ploughed his way on half bent legs through three challenges to score a fine solo goal.

Barely thirty seconds later, a clever flick-on by substitute Jermaine Martyn once again found Mills with only Richards in front of him. With Richards dummied and rounded, he rolled the ball gently into an open net to complete a fine hat-trick.

The final 10 minutes saw a tired looking Ton side defending, but defending well to keep the score down to respectable proportions.

Next Saturday Cadoxton Barry FC are on the road once more when they visit Llanbradach, the new home of Caerphilly AFC.

Caerphilly were promoted at the end of last season behind champions Cadoxton Barry. Although they have never beaten CB – CB winning 4-2 at Jenner Park earlier this season – they have always given CB a torrid time in earning the points.

Saturday is likely to be no different. Players and supporters wanting transport are invited to assemble at Cadoxton Conservative Club from 11-30am.

Monday's Linnets' Lottery numbers were 3, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 14. There were no winners, so next week's offering goes up to £600 from a choice of 13 numbers.

Reserves

CADOXTON BARRY'S two reserve sides both went through to the semi-finals of their respective Cup competitions.

The Seconds beat St Athan 1-0 away and will meet Tynewydd in the semi-final of the Supporters' Cup. Meanwhile the Thirds had a massive 9-1 away win over Cadoxton Athletic and go on the play Park Vets in the last four of the Dockers' Cup.

Power and style at the end of the Rainbow!

RAINBOW Concert Party are singing with even more style than usual – thanks to a donation from Aberthaw Power Station.

The party, made up of 14 members, were presented with new blouses and shirts that they wear to their concerts. They have 23 booked already in 2011.

Aberthaw Power Station production manager, Andy Harrison, made the formal presentation to musical director Gwyneth Moffat before the concert party entertained the OAP club in Penarth.

Members of the Rainbow Concert Party live across the Vale – from Llantwit Major and Cowbridge, to Barry and Llanmaes. They meet every Thursday at 1.30pm at the Millennium Hall in Barry for a two-hour rehearsal.

New members are always welcome and if you are over 55 and are interested in joining, go along to the rehearsal, or call Mrs Moffat on 01446 750617.



ABOVE: The cheque is handed over

VALE ROAD WORKS REPORT

TEMPORARY traffic control: *Colcot Road, Barry, between Winston Road and Whitewell Road, Barry; B4268, Llyswornery to Pentre Meyrick; Ewenny to St Brides Major; A4226 Five Mile Lane from Amelia Trust to Weycock Cross; Romilly Road/Canon Street, Barry.*

ROAD CLOSURE: *Station Road, Peterston Super Ely to the junction of Groesfaen boundary; The Broadshoard, Cowbridge.*

News from the Fonmon apiary

SPRING is now showing signs of arrival, hazel catkins are out and some snowdrops are on view.

Despite the somewhat varied conditions the bees are beginning to show signs of greater activity, in particular water gathering is under way.

Although I have provided a container of clean water, my bees prefer a container in which I have been placing rubbish articles and, which has collected rainwater for some time now.

This initial activity does of course mean that the bees will be relying on their winter stores and the beekeeper must ensure that they still have some.

Should they require help, the use of ready-made fondant (cake icing) will do the job. To apply it, simply roll some of it flat and lay it directly onto the tops of the frames that will be exposed when you lift the coverboard.

I shall not disturb the bees too much until the temperatures get a little higher; for now, I am content to observe the entrances and watch for pollen starting to come in.

Monitoring the tray debris for Varroa mites is still going on, much to my surprise, the latest check I carried out of two hives showed no mites at all. This is very encouraging, but possibly on my next check things may be different.

On January 29, I attended a symposium held at Worcester University, where scientists expounded on the latest findings concerning the Varroa and associated diseases.

As I have mentioned before, despite some 20 years of research, no solution is yet forthcoming. The hoped for magic bullet using fungus to eliminate the mite has not succeeded.

In laboratory conditions, some success was achieved, but eventually the fungus could not sustain its reproductive cycle because the temperature within a colony of bees was far too high. More research is required.

One thing that was apparent to me was that hives used by the scientists that were isolated and supposedly free of the Varroa would become infested once again. How?

All in all, the researchers are doing their best and we as beekeepers must carry on the fight using the materials we have to hand.

The previous months spent cleaning and refurbishing equipment will, I know, prove beneficial. New stands and new mesh floors have been made; these will be put to good use very shortly, as will the clean and waxed frames.

All articles removed from the hives will be dealt with promptly – by that, I mean discarded should that be necessary, or cleaned and scorched ready for re-use.

Cleanliness has to be the watchword for the coming season it can only help the bees in their fight to survive.

Queen raising is on the agenda this year and I will keep you informed as to the success or failure of the project.

Should it be successful, new beekeepers will become the recipients of said queens, and of course, bees to go with them.

Beekeeping courses will be starting shortly, and I look forward to meeting aspiring beekeepers. We need them.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

IN BRIEF

AN antique and collectors fair will be held at the Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, on Sunday, February 27 at 10am–4.30pm.

Adults £1.50; accompanied children free.

Items include Art Deco original paintings, including the work of two gifted Welsh artists.

Irene Bach (1901–1999) was vice-president of Swansea Art Society, and Archie Jones of Cardiff Art Society, was famous for his 'Steam' locomotives.

On sale will be 17th century furniture; Victorian dressing table mirrors; vintage linens; various pottery: Ewenny, Nantgarw, Poole, Devon, Royal Worcester, jewellery, dolls and bronzes.

Refreshments will be available in a side room at the fair. So take a trip down 'Memory Lane' and enjoy!

Tax advice

TAX help for older people advice surgery will be held at the Age Concern offices, Holton Road, Barry on Monday, February 28, between 10am-12 noon.

PACT meetings in Vale

DYFAN PACT, surgery with the reassurance and engagement vehicle today (February 17), at Winston Road, Barry, between 1pm-4pm.

ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, March 1, at 7pm.

CADOC PACT, Palmerston Community & Learning Centre, March 4, 2pm.

WENVOE Community Council, Wenvoe Community Hall, today (February 17, 7.30pm. Coffee and chat meeting, Wenvoe Arms, February 24, 11am.

RHOOSE PACT surgery, outside Tesco February 23, 2pm.

ST ATHAN PACT, The Gathering Place, March 1, 7.30pm.

CRAIG PENLLYN, coffee and chat meeting, Barley Mow public house, March 2, 11am.

PLYMOUTH surgery, clifftops car park, February 21, 12pm-2pm.

ST AUGUSTINE'S surgery, with the reassurance and engagement vehicle TERV, February 21, 12noon-2pm.

SULLY surgery, with the reassurance and engagement vehicle TERV, February 25, BP Sports and Social club car park, 2pm-4pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact your local Neighbourhood Policing or log onto www.ourbobby.com

PENARTH & DISTRICT RAMBLERS: walks round-up

Haunted castle and a sinister Goblin Stone...

REPORTS by JOY STRANGWARD

SEVEN walkers joined Joy, Bracken and Bronte for a trip down to Newton after a poor weather forecast meant a cancellation of their planned walk in the Llangattock area.

Newton was the only harbour on the coastline between Briton Ferry and Aberthaw and smuggling was rife as villagers took advantage of the ships that were wrecked on Tusker Rock and Black Rocks in the bay, and the Jolly Sailor pub in the village played a big part in this.

Newton closed as a port that exported wheat, oats and knitted stockings when a proper harbour was constructed at nearby Porthcawl in 1825.

The tide had turned as the group took to the beach, passing Black Rocks with the south westerly wind on their backs and misty rain in the air, and made their way across Traeth yr Afon, the tideline of which was covered with leaves, seaweed, wood, trees and the inevitable plastic containers of all kinds.

The River Ogmore begins to the north of Treorchy as Ogwr Fach and meets the Ogwr Fawr near Blackmill before it flows through Merthyr Mawr on its journey to the sea.

When coal mining was the major industry of the valleys, the river was heavily polluted, but it now runs clear and the group followed the river upstream, before turning inland through the dunes to Candleston.

The ruins of Candleston Castle made a fitting stop for morning refreshment and the name was derived from the Norman Cantelupe family who built this fortified manor house in the late 14th century.

Later, the estate land became engulfed with sand following heavy storms and high tides and was therefore useless and also the nearby village of Treganlaw (the town of a 100 hands) was lost to the sand.

The castle is said to be haunted and surrounded by trees it does have an eerie atmosphere – but there are many ghost stories surrounding a nearby area that according to legend, was an oratory for a Celtic Chapel.

Old crosses and stones were found, one being the Goblin Stone, which was allegedly haunted by an unknown ghost that would surprise passing people, capture them and force them to embrace the stone after, which their hands and feet would become trapped in the carvings and the only method of escape was prayer.



All smiles at Merthyr Mawr Warren.

Making their way across empty fields to Ton Farm, they walked the lane to St Teilo's Church and stopped to examine the collection of ancient memorial stones contained in a shed behind the church before admiring the hundreds of snowdrops that adorned the churchyard.

The pretty thatched cottages in Merthyr Mawr gave way to some quiet lane walking where many primroses were spotted in a garden before the group, followed by several horse-riders, made their way to Whitney Farm.

Crossing muddy fields, they skirted Coed Cwintin and emerged by Candleston Farm and followed the lane to enter the rear of Merthyr Mawr Warren where cows were taking rest under the trees.

The present warren is all that remains of what was the largest sand dune complex in Britain which stretched along the coastline to Mumbles.

Now it is protected and an important habitat for plant and wildlife.

Narrow sandy paths led them through the woods and lunch was enjoyed in a clearing before they continued through the disused rifle range and back through Newton Burrows.

There, in 1973, a 3,000-year old tomb was discovered, one of the many burial places in the area, and archaeologists have proved that the Celts and Romans once settled in the area.

After a short walk through the dunes, the group returned to the beach car park just as the sun began to break through the clouds.

On February 20, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 7-mile moderate walk at Talybont-on-Usk and the Bryn Oer tramroad; contact Val H on 029 2051 3274.

...AND A VIEW OF THE RIVER WYE FROM THE SAXON GATE

ON a bright, breezy and cool morning six walkers, border terrier Jasmine and leader Joy with Bracken and Bronte set off from below Tumps Hill in the county of Gloucestershire and joined part of the Wye Valley Walk.

After following the old dismantled railway line, the track led them below the Coldwell Rocks and they climbed up through the woods emerging beside some stone lime kilns and followed the road steeply uphill to Symonds Yat east where they stopped for morning coffee.

Yat Rock, from the Saxon word 'Yat' meaning gate or pass, has a scenic viewpoint, 120-metres above the winding Wye, and is renowned for peregrine falcons that nest in the tall cliffs which are also used by climbers.

The river cut a deep gorge through the carboniferous limestone and over 2,000 years ago there was an Iron Age fort at the top.

Descending by road, the group entered Elliot's Wood and descended a steep, muddy path with a flight of wooden steps that led them downhill past dozens of small white snowdrops, the first to be seen this season.

The walkers spotted several cock pheasants evidently being bred in the area.

Following the river bank, muddy in places where the river had overflowed, the group reached the metal Huntsham road bridge and opposite in a field, rather unusually, saw around two dozen swans that appeared to be feeding on the crop.

Crossing a field to Rocklands Farm they passed three pigs snuffling around in the mud before joining the Goodrich road for a short distance to reach a footpath opposite a field of Alpacas.

Resembling small Llamas, they graze on the heights of the Andes in southern Peru, which is their home, but they were bred not just for meat but for their coat.

Their hair is used for making blankets, coats, socks, hats, sweaters, gloves, scarves and ponchos. If disturbed or frightened they can kick and spit but this particular brood seemed happy to stand and smile for a photograph!

Climbing uphill by narrow lane and road, the group steadily climbed up Coppet Hill and paused at the trig point standing at 188 metres with its fantastic view of the ruined Goodrich Castle built in the late 11th century.

During the Civil War the castle was held by both sides but Sir Henry Lingen's Royalists were finally forced to surrender when threatened with the huge mortar known as Roaring Meg which has been returned to the castle after an absence of 350 years.

On a clear day the views stretch to the Brecon Beacons and the Black Mountains in Powys, the Clee Hills in Shropshire and the Malvern Hills in Worcestershire.

An old ruined cottage at the top made a perfect stop for lunch which was enjoyed in bright and fairly warm sunshine for the time of year while drinking in the views.

Walking the ridgeway, which after 15 years of conservation work, was made a nature reserve in 2000, and is supported by the Friends of Coppet Hill who dwell in the parish, the group noted that it is home to the rare pearl bordered fritillary butterfly.

Descending a narrow path through woodland, they reached the Wye once more where the temperature fell rapidly and topcoats were hastily put back on.

Then they followed the river bank until they reached Park Wood where they re-crossed the river by way of the disused railway bridge and made their way back to their start point.

The Vale's Seren takes her exceptional form of last year into the new year



SEREN ALLIN showed that the Christmas break had not affected her form as she produced the top performance by a Vale pupil at the top cross-country event in Wales – the McCain Cardiff Cross Challenge, held at Blackweir.

With a substantial amount of rainfall leading up to the event, it was no surprise that the course was very heavy in places and, with fourteen races being held to cater for athletes from primary schools to Masters over 70 years of age, it inevitably churned up into thick, heavy mud in places, adding a new dimension to the experience of many year-7 pupils.

Although part of a UK series, the event incorporates a schools invitation inter district and inter county match, which has been held since 1977 and which attracts representative teams from across South Wales – Dyfed, Afan Nedd Tawe, Powys, Glamorgan Valleys, South East Wales and Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan – plus Gloucestershire.

The schools' competitions are scored separately from the main race, and are held a year younger than the normal bottom end of the age group.

Cowbridge pupil Seren was wearing the maroon and gold colours of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan district and had an outstanding run in the schools' year-7 competition to take second place behind Cari Llyr Hughes from Syr Thomas Jones in Anglesey.

Sadly, that was the only individual medal claimed by a Vale pupil at this high quality fixture, but there were a number of team medals claimed.

Heading that list was the Cardiff and the Vale Middle Boys team (years-10 and 11). Competing in the under-17 (years-11 and 12) race, for the second successive year the squad produced a top quality performance to claim a narrow win over the Gloucestershire team.

Contributing to that success – as he had in 2010 – was Barry Comprehensive pupil Matthew Edwards, who finished 22nd in the race and 11th in the schools competition. There was further good news for Matthew after the race as he was selected to represent the Wales under-17 team at the Celtic International in Dublin.

In addition to that team gold medal, there were eight silver medals as Cardiff and the Vale produced its best performance at this event for many years, finishing second to Gloucestershire in four age groups.

Having taken individual silver in the year-7 girls' race, Seren Allin doubled her tally by leading her squad to second, losing out by only seven points. The huge improvement by Stanwell athletes this winter is underlined by Emily Wooster finishing as sixth and final counter for the A team, finishing 36th in the race and 31st in the schools' competition.

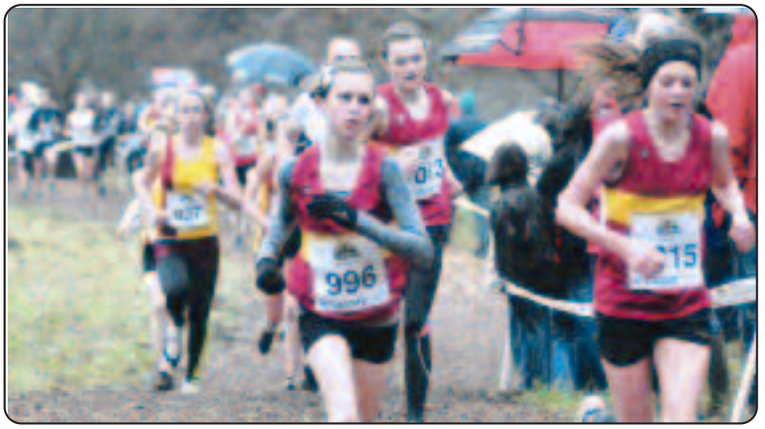
There was an even bigger Stanwell contribution in the year-7 boys' race.

Two pupils from the Penarth school – Spencer Robinson (19th in the race, 11th in the schools' section) and Ben McCullagh (23rd and 11th) – were in the second placed Cardiff and the Vale team, with Aled George (24th and 12th) – one of a trio of George brothers from Bro Morgannwg taking part – also a member of the scoring six.

Another Vale trio – the second George brother, year-9 Dafydd (29th and 17th), Ben Owen (Llantwit, 33rd and 21st) and year-8 Elliot Morris-Devred (Barry Comprehensive, 45th and 32nd) were members of the second place team in the schools' year-8 and 9 section held within the under-15 (years-9 and 10) race.

Sadly, there were no Vale girls in the senior girls' team, while two Llantwit pupils headed the Cardiff and the Vale teams in the senior boys' and middle girls' competitions respectively. Year-10 Megan Osborn was the top local girl in the middles, finishing 14th in the race and sixth in the schools' section.

Year-12 Alex Simon should be rightly pleased that, after years of frustration, he produced his best ever performance at this fixture to lead the senior boys into third place, which misses out on a team medal, by finishing 30th in the race and 19th in the schools' element.



PICTURED: Erin Hayes – keeping up with the pacemakers.

Just over 500 pupils competed in the eight schools' competitions with Cardiff and the Vale Schools fielding 146 starters, slightly down on recent years, with the Vale providing a very healthy sixty pupils.

This was a tough test and it will be interesting to see whether the pupils named in this report figure in the Cardiff and the Vale teams to compete at the Aviva Welsh Schools Golden Celebration National championships, which will be held at Brecon on Wednesday, March 16.

Results of Vale pupils:

(The number in front of the pupils name is the race position. The number after the pupil's school is the schools' competition position.)

Senior Boys (Years-12 to 14) – 6.8 km: 30 Alex Simon (Llantwit, 19) 27:00; 39 Rhys George (Bro M, 28) 29:18; 40 Darren Jones (Llantwit, 29) 29:54; 42 Tom Howles (Llantwit, 31) 30:14.

Teams: 1 Gloucestershire Schools 44; 3 Cardiff and the Vale Schools 152.

Inter/Middle Boys (Years-10 and 11) – 5.7 km: 22 Matthew Edwards (Barry Comp, 11) 21:56; 32 Rory Heslop (Bro M, 20) 22:40; 48 Matthew Collins (Barry Comp, 35) 24:26; 50 Elliot Clissold (Barry Comp, 37) 24:31; 61 Sam Peterkin St Cyres 48) 25:35; 62 Dan Owen (Llantwit, 49) 25:51; 67 Meirin Evans (Bro M, 54) 26:48.

Teams: 1 Cardiff and the Vale Schools 58; 5 Cardiff and the Vale Schools B 199; 7 Cardiff and the Vale Schools C 283.

Junior Boys (Years-8 and 9) – 4.1 km: 29 Dafydd George (Bro M, 17) 16:29; 33 Ben Owen (Llantwit, 21) 16:47; 45 Elliot Morris-Devred (Barry Comp, 32) 17:09; 51 Rian Thomas (Cow, 37) 17:17; 56 Tom Rawlings (Llantwit, 42) 17:33; 60 Gareth Hurman (Barry Comp, 46) 17:40; 76 Ellis Rosser (Cow, 62) 18:20; 84 Huw Bennett (Cow, 70) 18:37; 86 Alex Love (Cow, 72 18:39; 88 Richard Dangerfield (Llantwit, 74) 18:46.

Teams: 1 Gloucestershire Schools 50; 2 Cardiff and the Vale Schools 104; 6 Cardiff and the Vale Schools B 237; 8 Cardiff and the Vale Schools C 292; 10 Cardiff and the Vale Schools D 385; 12 Cardiff and the Vale Schools E 451.

Year 7 Boys – 2.4 km: 19 Spencer Robinson (Stan, 7) 09:53; 23 Ben McCullagh (Stan, 11) 10:04; 24 Aled George (Bro M, 12) 10:06; 33 Will Marsh (Stan, 20) 10:12; 38 Dewi Bennett (Cow, 24) 10:20; 58 Will Gale (Stan, 41) 10:39; 67 Sean Davies (Cow, 49) 10:45; 68 Alex Langrish (Stan, 50) 10:46; 72 Luke Jefferys (Cow, 54) 10:54; 77 Rhys Gardner (Llantwit, 59) 11:00; 91 Cameron McJennett-House (Stan, 73) 11:24.

Teams: 1 Gloucestershire Schools 33; 2 Cardiff and the Vale Schools 56; 4 Cardiff and the Vale Schools B 154; 8 Cardiff and the Vale Schools C 289.

Inter/Middle Girls (Years-10 and 11) – 4.6 km: 14 Megan Osborne (Llantwit, 6) 20:51; 25 Fiona Bray (Cow, 15) 21:40; 46 Danielle Green (St Richard Gwyn, 36) 23:52; 56 Anthea Young (Llantwit, 46) 25:29; 63 Kathryn Gardner (Bryn H, 53) 26:57; 68 Bethan Yapp (Bro M, 58) 28:12; Dnf Lucy Tarrant (Llantwit).

Teams: 1 Dyfed Schools 56; 4 Cardiff and the Vale Schools 151; 7 Cardiff and the Vale Schools B 304.

Junior Girls (Years-8 and 9) – 3.5 km: 15 Kate Coker (Stan, 6) 15:06; 46 Erin Hayes (Llantwit, 32) 16:25; 49 Ela Emyr (Cow, 35) 16:40; 55 Rebecca Thomas (Cow, 41) 16:56; 57 Nadine James (Cow, 43) 17:00; 76 Alice Tudor (Cow, 61) 17:46; 77 Ana Mirza-Davies (Stan, 62) 17:47; 81 Tillie Carter (Bryn H, 66) 18:02; Dnf Maisie Squire (Stan).

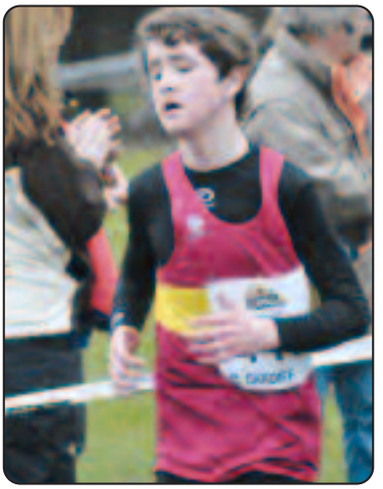
Teams: 1 Gloucestershire Schools 63; 2 Cardiff and the Vale Schools 85; 7 Cardiff and the Vale Schools B 199; 9 Cardiff and the Vale Schools C 292.

Year-7 Girls – 2.4 km: 5 Seren Allin (Cow, 2) 09:51; 36 Emily Wooster (Stan, 31) 11:13; 39 Seren Marsh (Stan, 34) 11:15; 42 Annabelle Birch-Hurst (Stan, 37) 11:22; 47 Kelsea Peterson (Bro M, 41) 11:34; 63 Rebecca Humpage (Stan, 55) 12:01; 66 Ysobelle Williams Bishop of Llandaff 58) 12:06; 74 Cerys Bradshaw (Cow, 65) 12:22; 75 Alicia Thomas (Cow, 66) 12:25; 82 Ffion Vickers (Cow, 73) 12:39; 87 Nia Fenn (Bro M, 78) 12:46; Dnf Ffion Adams (Stan).

Team: 1 Gloucestershire Schools 72; 2 Cardiff and the Vale Schools 79; 8 Cardiff and the Vale Schools B 258; 9 Cardiff and the Vale Schools C 355.

PETER MORRIS

At the start of the girls year-13 race



PICTURED: Aled George.



PICTURED: Seren Allin on the charge.

barry-today.co.uk
cowbridge-today.co.uk
llantwit-major-today.co.uk
porthcawl-today.co.uk
bridgend-today.co.uk

Glamorgan GEM Websites

News, Sport, Letters, Features, What's On, Jobs, Motors....

Persil Boys come unstuck

PERSIL BOYS saw their title hopes in the Bridgend Six-a-side Sunday league take a massive dent as they were surprisingly beaten 2-0 by strugglers The Pie Boys.

Nigel Gibbs starred while Roy Larkin did likewise as Inter Wildmill became the only one of division one's top four to win, beating Minter Phoenix 3-0.

Anyone who wants to join the six-a-side football league in Bridgend should telephone 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net



Ty Mawr Gwyn, Flemingston

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Walnut Grove, St Athan

4 Bedrooms
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Call Simon 01446 791963

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Yew Tree Grove, St Athan

2 Bedrooms
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01446 711900
lettings@chris-davies.co.uk

New cottage plan for old garage...



ABOVE: The derelict garage that will be demolished to make way for a cottage.

AN empty garage showroom in Llanfair is to be demolished and replaced by a two-bedroom cottage.

Approval was granted at the planning committee meeting earlier this month, and councillors were told that the plan has been welcomed by Llanfair Community Council, which believed it could only be an improvement to the site.

However, conditions attached include giving the planning authorities prior notice of the intended building materials.

The council has also requested a "nest box scheme targeted towards house sparrow, starling, swift, swallow or house martin".

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 123 (2A)

Land immediately adjacent to the Café, Porthkerry Park Barry

Notice is hereby given that Vale of Glamorgan Council intends to dispose of land having an area of approximately 100 square metres immediately adjacent to the Café at Porthkerry Park which forms part of an open space for use as a decked area ancillary to the use of the café.

Objections to the intended disposal must be made in writing and addressed to:

Director of Legal Public Protection
& Housing Services ref C07-0327
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU
by no later than 3rd March 2011

Dated the 17th day of February 2011
P H Evans
Director of Legal Public
Protection & Housing Services

Vale council houses: hand-over ballot

THE average rent of a council property in the Vale is £86 a week – that information was given to Llantwit Major town councillors by Vale councillor Gwyn John.

He reported that the ballot on whether or not to hand council houses over to a newly-created housing association called Heritage Coast Homes is due to take place shortly.

Coun John said that this decision would have a big impact on the future of council houses: "The environment that many of our houses are within is in a poor state these days. We have problems at Trebeferad with the narrow roads which either need to be widened or parking areas created to remove the parked cars from the streets. But there is no money to do that.

"There could be benefits in future. Many council houses have already been sold privately and there's not much housing stock left. There are only 4,000 houses left in the whole of the Vale."

He warned that the Vale Council's budget would have to be cut back because of the spending cuts coming from the Welsh Assembly, and said that people would be upset to see no work being done on council houses, even though rents would continue to rise.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2011/00092/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion of one residence to two apartments including the demolition of small outhouse buildings to provide improved access facilities
Location:/Lleoliad: 40, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2011/00098/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing lean to sheds and erection of new extension containing entrance hall and living room. Alteration and extension to create new utility and breakfast rooms
Location:/Lleoliad: Lydmore Farm, Dyffryn
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2011/00101/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Retrospective application to remove broken boiler, fit new one and change necessary flue piping
Location:/Lleoliad: 71, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995 GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2011/00106/FUL and 2011/00109/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Variation of Condition No. 1 and renewal of planning permission no. 2000/01435/FUL for conversion and replacement of existing buildings to form 12 dwellings.
Location:/Lleoliad: Site of former St. Athan Boys Village, St. Athan

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2011/00113/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Exchange existing flare stack chimney for a smaller unit more suitably sized to current requirements
Location:/Lleoliad: Gas Compound, Plymouth Park, Marconi Avenue, Penarth

Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way/ Departure from the Provision of the Development Plan Ceisiadau a allai effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus/ Ceisiadau nad ydynt yn cydymffurfio â Darpariaeth y Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2011/00118/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of biogas plant
Location:/Lleoliad: Land north of Pancross Farm, Llancarfan

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk
Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 17 February, 2011
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 17 Chwefror, 2011
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
CF63 4RT

Recent Vale planning applications

Miss Fiona Leadbitter, **The Coachhouse, Bwlch Gwyn Farm, Sandy Lane, Ystradowen** – demolition of outbuildings, erection of two-storey extension to existing detached dwelling, works to include new fireplace and associated chimney.

Mr Greg Kingdon, **rear of 30 and 32 Barry Road, Barry** – replace wooden outward opening doors with roller shutter doors.

Mr and Mrs Witherspoon, **4 Nordale Road, Llantwit Major** – two storey extension to side and rear.

Mr R Ryland, **45 Partridge Road, St Athan** – attached three bedroom dwelling.

Mr Adrian Rowe, **Chapel House, 5 Rhoose Road, Rhoose** – retrospective application for alterations to previous application, including new pitch roof to rear, conservatory and dormer windows.

Mr Bryan Wadham, **40 High Street, Cowbridge** – conversion of one residence to two apartments including the demolition of small outhouse buildings to provide improved access facilities.

Mrs Leake, **The Chippings, Bridge Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – fell small ash in rear garden.

Mr Richard Bevington, **1 Cwrt ty Mawr, Penarth** – take down existing conservatory and re-build on same footprint with traditional tile roof.

Ms Jane Fraser, **Oakways Farm, Peterston Super Ely** – single storey dwelling.

Mr Adrian Goolding, **70 Redbrink Crescent, Barry Island** – conservatory to side of property.

Mr Morrish, **206 Redlands Road, Penarth** – rear dormer.

Mr Paul Thomas, **Lydmore Farm, Dyffryn** – demolition of existing lean to sheds and erection of new extension containing entrance hall and living room. Alteration and extension to create new utility and breakfast rooms.

Miss Emma Hancock, **Bassett Park, Bassett Street, Barry** – provision of general amenity lighting.

Mr and Mrs Bryan, **19 Darren Close, Cowbridge** – first floor extension above the garage to form a new master bedroom/ensuite, a new conservatory and internal improvements.

Mr Hywel Jones, **17 Eastgate, Cowbridge** – retrospective application to remove broken boiler, fit new one and change necessary flue piping.

Mr Neil Rossiter, **33 Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys** – single storey extension with lean to roof to rear of property.

Punch Pub Partnership, **The Blacksiths Arms, Llanmaes, Llantwit Major** – demolition of existing outbuildings and the erection of a proposed extension in place.

Mr Peter Thomas, **The Villa, Pendoylan Road, Gwern Y Steeple** – residential dwelling, within curtilage of existing house.

Mr Jonathan Power, **6 Bradenham Place, Penarth** – conversion of property into two, one bedroom, self-contained flats.

Messrs R Thomas , M Terry and R Mooney, **site of former St Athan Boys Village, St Athan** – variation of condition No1 on permission no 2000/01435/FUL dated February 13, 2006, so that the duration of the planning permission may be extended. Conversion and replacement of existing buildings to form 12 dwellings.

Mr Lloyd Konten, **Hill Top, Oxford Street, Barry** – single storey extension at the rear of the property.

Mr Stephen Bryl, **4 Cwrt Leubren, Barry** – single storey Orangery extension to rear of property, extending kitchen and living area.

One Stop Stores, **Broad Street, Barry** – erection of various advertisements in connection with 'One Stop' store.

Mr Anthony Carter, **Barry Fire Station, Port Road West, Barry** – seven additional parking spaces.

Mr Wynn Jones, **Gas Compound, Plymouth Park, Marconi Avenue, Penarth** – exchange existing flare stack chimney for a smaller unit more suitably sized to current requirements.

Mr Stephen VanPragg, **Summerhouse Bay, Boverton** – disabled access ramp and storm shelter.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 23 February 2010

homes4u HOTLINE
01446 709840
01446 704316

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at **HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk** or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department
Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

ARTHUR DAVIES COURT, BARRY



H4U reference 997473
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal entrance
- Warden on-site, parking

Rent £90.34 per week including service charge

BRECON COURT, BARRY



H4U Reference 202309
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60
- One bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £75.98 per week inc alarm and service charges

BRYN BARRWG, BARRY



H4U Reference 1063269
Suitable for a mature couple or older family
- Two bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £71.90 per week including service charges

CLOS PEIRIANT, BARRY



H4U Reference 1062971
Suit. for a single person or couple with 1 child
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Garden

Rent £72.43 per week including service charges

COLUMBUS CLOSE, BARRY



H4U reference 978570
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £78.19 pw inc water service & heating charges

ELIS FISHER COURT, BARRY



H4U reference 1063236
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
Priority given to person needing adaptation
- One-bedroom flat (GF)
- Electric storage heating
- Double glazing, parking
- Adapted shower
- Warden on site, garden

Rent £98.50 per week including service charge

GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH (2)



H4U reference 1063247
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- (2) Bedsits (no lift)
- Ground and first floors
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal entrance
- Warden on-site, parking

Rent £100.06 pw inc water service & heating charge

GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH



H4U reference 1063350
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
Priority given to person needing adaptation
- One-bedroom flat (GF)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing, parking
- Walk-in shower
- Warden on site, garden

Rent £108.28 pw inc water service & heating charge

HEOL Y LLONGAU, BARRY



H4U reference 1063203
Suit for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
Priority given to person with mobility impairment
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

Rent £89.88 per week including service charge

HUNT PLACE, BARRY



H4U Reference 212861
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets (without mobility issues)
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor(with steps)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £68.19 p.w. inc. service and alarm chgs

JEWEL STREET, BARRY



H4U Reference 1050959
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £80.55 per week

LAUGHARNE COURT, BARRY



H4U Reference 214649
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £85.76 per week including water charges

LIDDICOAT COURT, BARRY



H4U reference 999653
Suit. for a single person or couple over 40
- One-bedroom flat
- Third floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

Rent £78.19 pw inc water service & heating charge

MAES YR YSGOL, BARRY



H4U reference 947698
Suitable for a single person or couple
Priority given to person with mobility impairment
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

Rent £63.96 per week including service charge

MERGANSER COURT, BARRY



H4U reference 1008953
Suitable for a family
- Three-bed maisonette
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed garden

Rent £85.54 per week including service charges

MICHAELSTON CLOSE, BARRY



H4U Reference 216518
Suit for a single person, couple or small family
- Two-bed bungalow
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £82.36 per week including water charges

OSPREY COURT, BARRY



H4U reference 1018048
Suitable for a single person or couple
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £69.12 per week including service charge

OWAIN COURT, ST ATHAN



H4U Reference 249319
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £76.38 per week including service and alarm charges

PENDINE CLOSE, BARRY



H4U Reference 219845
Suit. for a single person, couple or small family – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £82.36 per week including service charges

PONTALUN CLOSE, BARRY



H4U Reference 221563
Suit. for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £69.79 per week including service charges

STEWART ROAD, RHOOSE



H4U Reference 247969
Suit. for a single person, couple or small family
- Two-bedroom flat
- Upstairs
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £75.41 per week including service charges

TY GWENFO, BARRY



H4U reference 1023795
Suit. for a single person over 40 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

Rent £68.17 perweek including service charge

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.

When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.

All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

Newydd is a charitable housing association.

WHITEWELL ROAD, BARRY



H4U Reference 228107
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £88.86 per week including water charges

WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY



H4U Reference 228262
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £72.56 per week including service charges

WINSTON ROAD, BARRY



H4U Reference 229096
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £82.65 per week including water charges

Feedback will appear in the next advert

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

Under-10s contest two quality games

BRIDGEND Athletic under-10s hosted Pencoed with the wet weather making playing conditions very difficult.

Pencoed arrived with a smaller squad than usual, and the first game saw the Ath apply pressure, keeping Pencoed pinned in their own half.

This pressure lead to Sion Vigus scoring his first try for the Ath in the corner.

The Ath kept up the pressure from the re-start but were pegged back when Pencoed broke away and went over to make it 5–5. The Ath were playing well, but another breakaway saw Pencoed go the length of the field to score making it 10–5 at half time.

Pencoed kicked off the second half and the Ath scored the next try, with Thomas Anthony supporting play well and going over to make it 10–10.

Some more good play from the Ath saw Thomas Anthony go over again to give the Ath a 15–10 lead. Both sides were playing well, but the Ath managed to extend their lead with Dan O'Sullivan forcing his way over the line after a good run. Next, more pressure saw Thomas Anthony go over to complete a hat-trick of tries, making the final score Bridgend Athletic 25, Pencoed 10.

Game 2

The Ath kicked off the second game and some good early attacking play saw Daffydd Beech make a great run to make it 5–0 to the Ath. Pencoed came back strong but the Ath defended well under pressure.

It wasn't long before Pencoed managed to break the Ath defence to make it 5-5. More good attacking play from the Ath was rewarded when Louis King made a good break to go over the line to make it 10–5 to the Ath at half time.

Pencoed got the second half underway and scored an early try to level the score at 10–10. Both sides attacked and defended well but after a few changes, Pencoed managed to break away and score for a 15–10 lead.

Pencoed continued to pressurise the Ath and it wasn't long before they scored their fourth try of the game making it 20–10.

The Ath were making some good tackles but Pencoed kept attacking and scored another try after stealing the ball, scored again after a great run and side-step, and making the score 30–10.

The Ath battled bravely, but Pencoed scored the last try, forcing their way over from close range, making the final score Bridgend Athletic 10, Pencoed 35. A gallant effort against a strong Pencoed side.

Squad: Jack Obbard, Ffion Revill, Louis King, Teo Fillis, Thomas Anthony, Brandyn Fooks, Jade Thomas, Taine Waite, Jamie Marshall, Lance Burn, Kasari Mehta, Josh Tidy, Connor Fabian, Charles Creffield, Gwilym John, Dan O'Sullivan, Daffydd Beech, Christopher Hart, Sion Vigus, Sam Veasey, William Goodall, Thomas Reed.

Under-11s keep the tempo high

BRIDGEND Athletic under-11s welcomed Pencoed to Newbridge Fields on Sunday and despite the wet weather, some excellent rugby was played by both teams.

The Ath showed a real will to win on a pitch that was becoming muddier by the minute. The forwards, Thomas Zielinski, Jac Bassett, Jack Walker, Brandon Burgess and Matthew Hobby laid the platform for this good win, securing the ball well on the floor on many occasions.

Scrum half Rhys Gamble moved the sticky ball out wide where the backs, of Caine Woolerton, Ieuan Thomas, Nathan Willis, Chris Matthews, Drew Cording and Callum Morgan ran at the Pencoed defence at every opportunity.

The offloading in the tackle was particularly impressive, with support runners coming onto the ball at speed, making it difficult for the defence. Despite this, Pencoed certainly had their moments and manufactured a number of good handling moves with their backline.

The second half saw a number of changes in personnel for the Ath to make sure all players had the same game time. Up front, Morgan Hughes, Iwan Osbourne, Adam Murathodzic and the ever-improving Matthew Hibbert came on and all were extremely muddy within a minute, getting stuck in and tackling well.

In the backs, Joe Patterson, Cameron Lewis and Dylan Parry slotted in well as the Ath continued to attack. The game finished 63–5 to the Ath boys, who scored nine tries and were ruthless at times when close to the try line. Tries were scored by Chris Matthews (three), Jac Bassett, Ieaun Thomas, Rhys Gamble, Matthew Hobby, Joe Patterson and Caine Woolerton, who also added eight conversions, with Morgan Hughes kicking the other. Best back of the day went to Joe Patterson and best forward was Jack Walker.

LG

Police Youth pull clear after close contest

SOUTH Wales Police Youth XV welcomed Treharris Youth to Waterton Cross for a Friday evening fixture and from the start the bigger Treharris pack looked to take the game to the Police.

However, the Police front row of Ben Coates, Rob Smith and Adam Morris held their own, while the second row partnership of Josh Thomas and Pat Roberts secured some great ball for outside half Josh Miles to put runners into space.

As in previous games, the work rate of Jordan Jones back row was outstanding in attack and in defence.

The Police opened the scoring with a well taken penalty from Cai James, Treharris attacked but solid defence from Jack Evans, Ieuan Davies and Jay Robbins kept them at bay. Police opened the scoring when scrum half Ross Pritchard went on a brilliant blind side break to force his way over.

Treharris forced their way back into the game with a well-taken try, but the Police saved the best till last with in-form centre Ryan Griffiths scoring two solo individual tries, one from inside his own 22. Wing Cai James slotted over the conversion.

Ieuan Davies, playing out of position, put in a great performance, also prominent for the Police were Craig Thomas and Aled Roberts.

Final score: South Wales Police Youth 20, Treharris 5.

Pyle and Kenfig are Wayfarers champions

FOR the Wayfarers the season got off to a flying start with a 4.5-0.5 win at home to Southerndown, followed by a 5-0 home win against Virginia Park in the Cup.

The team suffered a few narrow losses on the road against Brynhill and Newport but picked up valuable away points. Arch rivals Southerndown were despatched 1-4 away and, coupled with some convincing home wins, the league was looking a good possibility.

Next were Tredegar & Rhymney away in the Cup which was an experience! The welcome was second to none but the course gave us a stern test – postage stamp greens that hadn't been mown all week because of the hot weather and a lack of irrigation. Pyle & Kenfig managed to scrape a 2-3 away win but things could have been so different.

Mountain Ash were the next victims, where the team managed to pick up three valuable away points and then were beaten by Coed y Mwstwr 5-0 at home.

Things were progressing well and then Pyle & Kenfig hit a bit of a trough, narrowly beaten 3-2 away at Coed y Mwstwr and then turned over 1.5- 3.5 at home by Alice Springs. The next game, a Cup match away to Dinas Powys was crucial to morale. Unfortunately, the team were beaten 3-2 and things weren't looking so good.

Mountain Ash came to P&K during course maintenance week. The team came out of the blocks and won 4.5-0.5.

Having been to the Welsh Team Championship and seen the first team beaten by Newport, it was time for a little revenge. The following Wednesday, Newport Wayfarers were sent home on the wrong end of 5-0 match followed by a 4.5-0.5 beating of Mountain Ash. The league title was now a strong possibility.

The last game of the season was a tough fixture away to Alice Springs. They had won at home and had a formidable record on their own patch. It was a two-horse race for the title. P&K needed two points to win the league outright.

Alice Springs is a hilly course and it was a real trudge. There was no run on the ball and the conditions certainly favoured the home side! The weather was atrocious.

However, sterling performances by Allan Lavlle and Martyn Branch and Paul Franklin with Geraint Evans gained two essential points. Andy White and Wayne Morgan ground out a half and, the match was halved the title was won.

This triumph had been a long time coming and hopefully it will be the first of many as P&K should be in the premiership on a regular basis as the club has strength in depth.

A warm welcome awaits prospective members at Pyle & Kenfig. View the website or contact the club for details. Telephone 01656 783093 or visit www.pandkgolfclub.co.uk

Coychurch Prince of Wales 'Shankers Golf Society' celebrates its 30th birthday





***ABOVE:** The Shankers dressed in their very smart 'away strip'.*

***RIGHT:** At the society's presentation night are (left to right): Huw Rodgers (captain); Terry Anthony (best guest); Mrs Ann Coleman (president); and Paul Lawrence (best Shanker).*

A LOCAL golf society, based in a Bridgend pub, has just celebrated its 30th birthday.

The Prince of Wales 'Shankers' Golf Society, named after the local pub in Coychurch, has proved its longevity over 30 years.

The captaincy of the society changes every year and it was rookie captain, Huw Rodgers, who had the honour during 2010.

Huw – a member of both the Coed-y-Mwstwr and Southerndown Golf Clubs - is a keen charity fundraiser and has faced substantial challenges with two cycle rides from John O'Groats to Lands End in recent years. He also climbed Kilimanjaro with the Welsh Rugby captains, raising £10,000 for the Velindre Cancer Charity – all after undergoing major knee surgery.

Recognised by the 'Shankers' distinctive and strict dress code of Plus 2s and branded golf shirts, the 13-strong team of dedicated golfers spread their net wide. Last year for the first time since they were founded, they played a match against another Shankers Golf Society, made up of players across the UK. The match was played on May 2, at Tracy Park Golf Club, Bristol. One person flew in from Spain and two from Scotland for a match which is now set to be a regular event in the golfing calendar.

The match, was won by The Prince of Wales 'Shankers' and all are looking forward to the return game in 2011.

In August the society held a dinner dance at Southerndown Golf Club to celebrate 30 years of dedicated golfing tradition. Guests included the captain of Southerndown, Ron Meadows who pitted his skills against 'Shanker' Brian David. Mr David won the closely-fought match, claiming the coveted 30th anniversary trophy.

It was a black tie affair and awards were presented for 'best guests' and 'best Shankers'. Mrs Ann Coleman, president of the society, had the pleasure of presenting trophies and prizes to the winners during the evening, which concluded with dancing and singing into the early hours.

Every year (usually in October) the Prince of Wales 'Shankers' Society arranges a weekend away, inviting wives and partners to join them. This year was no exception and the society went to Tenby staying at the Fourcroft Hotel. Matches were played at various golf clubs over three days.

On Friday, the 'Shankers' were at Carmarthen GC, playing for the President's Bowl, which was won by Alwyn Rees of Southerndown GC. On the Saturday a match was held at Trefloyne GC. The trophy at stake was The Shankers Tankard This was won by John Cann of Fairwood GC, Swansea. Mr Cann is one of two founder members of the society still playing. The other is Martin Mallinson a member of Royal Porthcawl GC.

The final match of the weekend away was played on the Sunday at Tenby GC, which fittingly is the oldest club in Wales. It was a hard fought game with many suffering from the after effects of the previous evening's celebrations. The match was won by Geoff Roe (secretary of the society and a member of the Coed y Mwstwr GC) with a par on the 18th just beating (by one point) Gerry Crump (Creigiau GC) on the final hole.

The society's final event of the year was the 'Christmas Turkey Trot'. The Shankers returned to Tenby GC and played a Stableford match in sub zero temperatures on Friday, December 3. John Cann claimed another first prize (a huge turkey) John Reese (Lantrisant GC) and Huw Rodgers were second and third respectively. Darrell Hart (Coed y Mwstwr GC) the prize for 'Best Endeavour' on the day. This event concluded a hectic and eventful 30th year for the Prince of Wales 'Shankers' Golf Society.

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Public Notices

Notice of Cancellation of Registration

(FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT 1974 S.91)

Notice is hereby given that the Financial Services Authority has this day cancelled the registration of Llantwit Major Social Club (Register No. 2372 W) the registered office of which is at The Hayes, Colhugh Street, Llantwit Major, South Glamorgan, CF61 1RE on the grounds it has ceased to exist. The society ceases to be entitled to the privileges of a registered society, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by the society, which may be enforced against it as if such cancellation had not taken place.

Date: 31 January 2011

Financial Services Authority

25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HS

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Public Notice

Charity Commission – CSD-1161C

CHARITY: Sir Thomas Mansel Franklen Trust

REFERENCE: C-202260

The Charity Commission proposes to make a scheme to amend the trusts of this charity.

A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at:

Cowbridge Comprehensive School Aberthin Road, Cowbridge, CF71 7EN

Telephone - Mrs F Gandy, PA to the Headteacher: 01446 772311

or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Charity Commission Direct, PO Box 1227, Liverpool, L69 3UG, quoting the above reference or visiting our website at

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/schemesdefault.aspx

Comments or representations can be made within one month from February 17th, 2011.

GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

Father Pierce MAHER

Parish Priest of Our Lady & St Illtyd, Llantwit Major (with St Cadoc, Cowbridge) died on 10 February 2011 aged 69 years.

His body will be received into the Church of Our Lady & St Illtyd, Llantwit Major, on Monday February 21 at 7.00pm, prior to the celebration of Mass.

His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday February 22 at the Church of All Hallows, Miskin, at 12 noon, to be followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.15 pm.

All enquiries to W James & Sons, Fonmon 01446 710096. R.I.P.

LITTLE

Brian

Peacefully on February 9th at home. Beloved husband of Jan, devoted and much loved father to Jayne and Helen, adored grampa (Bobby) to Aldo, Francesca, Elliot and Rhys, loved and respected by brother Peter, and sons in law Frank and Paul.

We will miss him so much.

Resting at W A Brown & Son, Pembroke House, College Street, Llantwit major, until the service in St.Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major at 1.15pm on Monday February 21, 2011, followed by a cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.45pm. Family flowers only please, if wished donations (Cheques only please) to Cancer Research UK (Cymru), may be sent or handed to the funeral director.

BIRTHDAY MEMORIES

Jennifer Mary Hiscock

(nee Price) 18-2-50

Another birthday has come around,
And there's nothing I can do,
So I'll sit for a while and remember your smile,
Just as I always do.
To your resting place I visit,
Place flowers there with care,
But no-one knows my heartache,
When I turn and leave you there.
Love always – Phil *x x x x*

COOK

Ian (Cookie)

Christina, Amanda and Craig would like to thank all family and friends for all the support and wonderful tributes, messages and cards that they have received at this sad time.

Thanks also to Daphne Townsend and W A Brown & Son for their help and tremendous support. Special thanks to staff at Holme Tower, Penarth, and all colleagues and friends at No. 4 School at RAF St. Athan.

Mary Agnes CANDLISH

née McLaughlin

Peacefully, after long illness borne with dignity and courage. Mary, of 24 Manor Park, Llantwit Major. Wife of Tom, mother of Margaret and Angela, mother-in-law to Robert and Paul, grandma to Catherine and Ethan. Her passing leaves an enormous gap in the lives of the family.

Requiem Mass at Our Lady and St Illtuds on February 23 at 11.00am, followed by burial in Boverton Cemetery. Family flowers only.

Donations to Cancer Research UK or Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre to be c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

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COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

FIRST XV LET BRYNTEG OFF THE HOOK

THE senior rugby side lost 12-10 against top of the table Brynteg in the Welsh Schools premier league.

Cowbridge played some excellent rugby and dominated both scrum and lineout. Christian Roberts-Walters kicked the home side into a 3-0 lead after early pressure. Much of the first half saw Cowbridge camped in the Brynteg half and two missed penalties would prove costly at the end.

Brynteg scored out wide just before half time but Cowbridge fought back instantly with a try from Alistair Brace, and with Christian Robert Walters converting, Cowbridge led 10-5.

With one minute remaining Brynteg were pushing hard for the win. A solid Cowbridge defence looked to have held out to win but, with the last play of the game the Brynteg number 8 crashed over the line to score. The Brynteg outside half nailed his touchline conversion and the ref blew the final whistle with Brynteg winning 12-10.

This was another excellent performance from captain Ben Smith and his team. The attitude and hard work that the boys show in training will ensure that their team will continue to build and improve. Next game for the seniors will be at Pencoed in the quarter final of the National Vase Competition.

Cup win over local rivals

AFTER comfortably winning the Regional Vale competition the year 9 rugby team faced local rivals Brynteg in the last 16 of the Welsh Cup.

The game started promisingly when rampaging Joe Gaughan scored straight from the kick off, bull-dozing his way through the Brynteg midfield.

This however, turned out to be Cowbridge's only score of the first half in what was an error ridden 40 minutes, with Brynteg defending heroically and capitalising on a number of mistakes .

The second half was again a familiar story with Cowbridge having virtually all the territory and possession but unable to convert the pressure into points.

Nicky Griffiths continued to make inroads behind the gain line and skipper Holder was industrious at 6. The ever-present Gaughan crossed for a second try tying the game.

George Griffiths, playing out of position in the centre, crossed late in the game but was again denied by a Brynteg defender knocking the ball of out his hands.

The breakthrough came with a minute to spare when some adventurous play from the Brynteg backline, under their own posts saw Nicky Griffiths making another trademark tackle, forcing a turnover which was pounced on by skipper Dan Holder, who squeezed over the line under the sticks, allowing outside half Alex Guard to slot the conversion and win the game.

Player of the match: Joe Gaughan.

Year-11 rugby

THE year-11 rugby side lost away from home in the last 16 of the Welsh Schools Cup against a very strong Amman Valley side.

Captain Gus Rees McPherson has recently been selected for the Welsh under-16 national rugby squad and he led the team with an excellent attitude yet again.

Despite good performances from Chris Brace, Cameron O'Sullivan, Rhys Griffin and Evan Phillips, Amman Valley looked comfortable in securing a 35-5 victory. They will certainly be favourites to go on and win the competition after missing out 7-5 in the final when they were in year-9.

Many of the year-11 team will have little rest, as they will be playing for the senior side in both cup and league competitions.

Year-7 netball

THE year-7 netball teams headed to '1st Richard Gwyn' where the A team started off well against a very tall and strong team.

The first half was closely fought resulting in a 1-1 score at half-time. 1st Richard Gwyn managed to secure a further goal in the second half, so the final score was 2-1.

The B team got off to a very solid start with excellent defence, ensuring the Cowbridge attack were able to capitalise off the 1st Richard Gwyn's mistakes.

Excellent goals from Lucy Houseley at GS ensured the Cowbridge girls secured a 3-0 win.

A big thank you to Mrs A Pickford for her help with this fixture. Player of the match: GK - Emma Bowler, Lucy Houseley - GS,

Years-12 and 13 netball

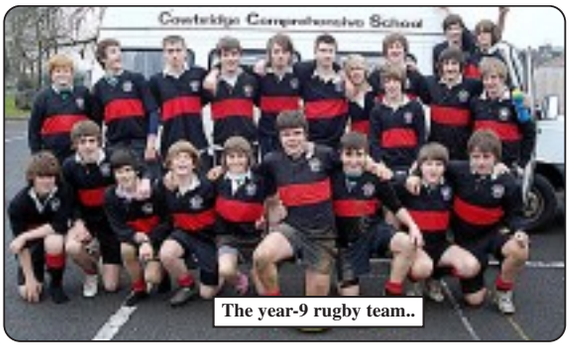
THE senior netball tournament took place at Whitchurch High School.

Cowbridge were drawn in the same pool as Radyr, Bryn Hafren and Plasmawr. The first game was against Bryn Hafren but, despite two initial goals from Lucy Williams to take Cowbridge into the lead, the Bryn Hafren team, most of whom are club players, responded quickly and the final score was 9-2 to them.

In the second game, Cowbridge faced Radyr, another strong team with many club players. Lily Crane controlled the ball well from the centre and ensured interceptions from Beth Moorcraft at GD and Emily Renwick at GK were fed onto the shooters. Cowbridge were up 4-2 at half time.

In the second half the Cowbridge girls showed resilience and determination as Radyr fought back. Olivia Brooks at WA made some lovely feeds into the shooters and a solid team performance enabled Cowbridge to hang on for a 6-5 win.





The year-9 rugby team..

In the final game, Cowbridge played Plasmawr, a strong team with a number of county players. Plasmawr's playing experience proved too much for the Cowbridge girls and the score ended 14-1 to Plasmawr.

Thank you to all the girls who played and for their commitment to the team during a busy period of exams, coursework and results.

Player of the match: Olivia Brooks - WA.

Recent results

IN the Vale of Glamorgan Schools Cup semi-finals year-8 Barry won 52-0, with tries by Tom Trotman two, Rian Thomas, Tom Lucas, Ben Jones, Luke John, Fraser McGhan two, Nathan Robson, and Tom Evans. Conversions were by Jonathan Harvey four, Matthew Harper four.

Year-7 played Bro Morgannwg and lost 15-12. Tries by Daniel Bunney, Sean Davies and one conversion by Duncan Ace.

ON the football field, year-7 played Barry Comprehensive School and won 6-2, with goals by David Bear two, Harrison Stevens, Jay Munn, George Day, Sam Lee.

Cross Country (boys)

THE third and final league race was held at Trelai Park, Ely, Cardiff. Also included in the race were the county championships where the top four runners were recorded, with six in a league race.

The boys' senior team have struggled this year with no runners from year-12 and year-13 age group. With the league age group being 10-13, the younger boys have done very well to compete against much older boys.

Results

(Year 10-13 – 130 runners): 56th, Tom Morgan; (year-10); 64th, Jason Sami (year-10); 74th, Raffi Shirzad, (year-10); 77th, Adam Hewitt, (year-11); 85th, Zavier Rickard (year-11); 86th, Jack Willox, (year-11); 87th, Daniel Newman (year-11); 90th, Stuart Fleming (year-11).

The league fixture boys finished eighth with a final league position of eighth. The county championship boys A Team finished 16th and B Team 19th.

(Year-8 and Year-9 race – 150 runners): This was a disappointing race for the team, as the fifth and sixth runners finished well down the field. 17th, Rian Thomas (year-8); 27th, Tom Owen (year-9); 28th, Ellis Rosser (year-8); 53rd, Kristian Jones (year-8); 86th, Jethro Haines (year-9); 97th, Alex Love (year-8); 103rd, Huw Bennett (year-8); 105th, Jordan Lowe (year-9).

The league race position was seventh with a final league placing of fourth. In the county championships the A team finished eighth and the B Team 18th.

Year-7 race – 150 runners): 10th, Dewi Bennett; 23rd, Joshua Peterson; 25th Sean Davies; 40th Luke Jeffries; 63rd, Jacob Roberts; 69th, Leo Kelly; 85th, Tom Bailey; 87th, Jacob Bunt; 97th, Luke Johnson-Brown.

In the league race, the boys finished sixth with a final placing of fifth overall. In the county championships the boys A Team finished seventh and B Team 17th.

Dewi Bennett year 7 has been selected to represent the county at the Welsh Schools Inter County Championships to be held in Brecon in March. Rian Thomas year 8 has been selected as first reserve for the same championships.

Cross Country (girls)

COWBRIDGE girls cross country team took part in the third and final County League Race and Championship Race held at Trelai Park in Ely.

It was a hat-trick of wins for year-7 pupil Seren Allin, winning by a significant margin from her closest competitor from Cardiff High School. The next pupil in for Cowbridge was Niamh Jenkins in 29th place, closely followed by Cerys Bradshaw in 311st, Gemma Viney in 43rd, Alicia Thomas 52nd, Isabel Smith 54th, Sophia Harpin 59th, and Eleanor Farr in 66th place.

There were 107 finishers. In the league race the team came sixth out of 20 teams. Seren Allin came first overall in the league races.

In the year-8 and year-9 race, year-8 pupil Nadine James had a great race to finish in 10th place, closely followed by Rebecca Thomas in 12th, Ela Emyr in 16th and Alice Tudor in 19th. Overall, this team came second. Other individual results include Brooke Langton-Cryer in 33rd, year-9 pupil Natasha Johnston in 49th, year-8 Sally Gambling in 511st, Izzy Eddy Williams in 55th, Megan Langton-Cryer in 56th and Evie Williams in 60th. There were 105 finishers.

In the year-10-13 race, year-11 pupil Fiona Bray came fourth overall, third in her age group. Bethan Allman had a strong run, finishing in 11th place, eighth in age group, followed by Rachel Bradsahw in 14th, 11th in age group, year 10 pupils Miriam Bennett came 18th, Katie Wynne 23rd and Rebecca John 311st out of 45 finishers. Well done girls!

THE City of Cardiff & Vale Schools Tumble and Vault championships were held at the Welsh Institute of Sport Sophia Gardens Cardiff.

Results – Under-13 Girls: Jasmine Stevens, (34.9), Jordan Stevens (34.0); Evie Williams (30.65); Bridget Walters (33.95). The team finished fourth overall.

Under-13 Boys: Tom Trotman (32.45); Tom Lucas (31.55) Hywel Williams (30.8); Joshua Brace (31.0). The team finished second overall.

Under-13 Girls: Lily Evans (35.2); Caitlin Allin (33.3); Rebecca Thomas (33.55); Natasha Johnston (32.8); Annabel Smith (30.45); Kimberley Dreyer (30.30); Natasha Sahonte (32.00). The team finished second overall,

Over-13 Boys: Danny Price (31.6); Jason Sami (33.0); Toby Swann (32.9); Liam Martin (32.5). The team finished fourth overall.

Tom Trotman finished in bronze medal position in the individual section, Lily Evans finished in silver medal position in the individual section.

The above two and Jasmine Stevens year-7 have been selected to represent the county at the Welsh Schools Gymnastics Tumble and Vault Competition in March.

Well done to all gymnasts.

THE year-8 hockey team played away at 1st Cyres and put in a solid performance.

The match was played on grass and, after the luxury of Cowbridge's new 3G pitch, the team took a few minutes to settle into the game.

Year-8 hockey

1st Cyres began with strong attacking, requiring Shellie May at sweeper and Caitlin Jones, Sally Gambling and Millie Green in defence to work tirelessly to prevent goal scoring opportunities. Hannah Lee at goal keeper also made an excellent early save to keep Cowbridge in contention.

Once settled, the Cowbridge girls began to play much better with some excellent linking play between Rosa Harman at right attack and Ellie Eddy-Williams at centre attack. A solid performance from Megan McNamee at centre midfield, led to an excellent cross into the D, enabling Evie Williams as left attack to score on the left post.

In the second half, Cowbridge kept up the momentum, forcing back 1st. Cyres to ensure that they kept the majority of the possession in their own attacking 25 metres. Great defence from Laurie Thomas enabled Rosa Hartman to make a break early in the second half and a beautifully executed cross gave Hannah Lister-Sims the opportunity to secure Cowbridge's second goal of the game.

A great team performance, which saw all of the 16 Cowbridge players take to the field. An excellent 2-0 win for the girls – well done!

Player of the match: Millie Green.

Sports Hall Athletics – boys

AT the recent Cardiff & Vale County under-13 championships held at Whitchurch Comprehensive School, the following pupils achieved the following results:

2 LAPS: Sixth, Nathan Robson (22.5 secs); 10th, Scott Thomas (22.7 secs); 211st Daniel Oddy (23.5 secs) Harri Thomas, (23.5 secs); 29th Harri Stevens (23.9 secs year- 7).

4 LAPS: Fifth Kristian Jones (48.6 secs) eighth Alex Love (49.6 secs)

6 LAPS: 211st Hugh Bennett (90.3 secs).

STANDING LONG JUMP: Sixth, Scott Thomas (2m 10cms); seventh, Harry Stevens (2m 08cms); 14th Daniel Oddy (1m 98cms); 18th Alex Love (1m 96cms).

STANDING TRIPLE JUMP: 10 Nicholas Rees (5m 26cms).

SPEED BOUNCE: 14th Harri Thomas (45) 19th Rian Thomas (42); 24th Scott Thomas (40).

VERTICAL JUMP 12th Scott Thomas (37cms);



16th Alex Love (34); 20th Sam Aston (32); 24th Edward Couzens (24).

SHOT: Seventh Edward Couzens (7m 50); 10th Craig Boxall (6m 90); 15th Nathan Robson (6m 50) 18th Harri Thomas (6m 20); 211st Harri Stevens (5m 85); 23rd Sam Aston (5m 60).

Bronze medals were won by Rian Thomas for the standing long jump (2m 24cms); Ellis Rosser for the vertical jump 42cms.

Silver medals were taken by Ellis Rosser the for 6 Lap (77.3 secs) and Daniel Oddy for the speed bounce (49).

Tom Trotman took the gold medal for the 2 Lap (21.3 secs) and for the high jump (1m40) as well as for the shot (10m 30).

There were two more gold medals: Kristian Jones for the speed bounce (50) and Rian Thomas for the 6 Lap (76.2 secs).

The above pupils will hopefully be selected to represent their county at the Welsh Schools Sports Hall Finals at Cwmbran Stadium in March.

In the Welsh AAA Indoor Athletics Championships held at WIC Indoor Arena, George Griffiths (year-9) won gold medals in both the 60m sprint (7.54 secs) and long jump (5m 80cms). He also took bronze in the 200mts (25.28 secs) despite being drawn on the inside lane.

Tom Trotman (year-8) won a gold medal for reaching 1m 60 in the high jump, and Alex Love (year-8)won bronze medal in the 800 mtreswith a time of 2mins 31 secs.

Well done to all athletes on their success.

Sports Hall Athletics – girls

THE year-9 and year-10 girls took part in the sports hall athletics competition at Whitchurch.

Year-9 pupil Izzy Eddy Williams came second overall finishing third in the 4 laps, second in the standing long jump and first in the speed bounce.

Caitlin Allin and Sarah Lewis came joint fourth finishing joint first in the 2 lap race and Caitlin came third in the standing long jump and fourth in the speed bounce. Sarah came fifth in the vertical jump and third in the speed bounce.

Lilli Evans came seventh overall finishing fourth in the 2 lap race, first in the vertical jump and seventh in the speed bounce.

Other results included: Hannah Gaskin (11th overall) – 2 lap 11th, vertical jump seventh, shot putt seventh; Annabel Curle (11th overall) – 4 lap finished eighth, standing long jump eighth, speed bounce ninth; Georgia Lott came 13th (overall) – 2 lap seventh, vertical jump eighth, shot putt 13th; Natasha Johnson (17th overall) – 2 lap 15th, standing long jump seventh, speed bounce came 11th; Hannah Woodward (19th overall) – 2 lap 19th, vertical jump ninth, shot putt sixth; Jordan Carpenter (20th overall) – 4 lap seventh, standing long jump 17th, speed bounce 12th; Nancie Edwards (25th overall) – 4 lap ninth, standing long jump 14th, speed bounce 20th; Bethan White (29th overall) – 4 lap 12th, standing long jump 22nd, speed bounce 14th; Megan Brown (34th overall) – 4 lap 11th, standing long jump 20th.

Cadoxton Imps come back strong at Sully

CADOXTON Imps travelled to Sully on Saturday to play another title chasing side in Sully A.

In a close affair, Sully started the brighter, playing their usual high standard of football and creating chances. It came as no surprise when they took the lead midway through the first half, following a good footballing move and superb finish.

This brought the Imps to life and, although Sully kept the pressure on, solid defensive work from Gage Waller, Tom Dyball (who both played heroically with back injuries) and a brilliant performance from Jacob Burgess, ensured the Imps stayed in the game.

Once again, Sam Rees Davies gave an outstanding display in goal, with his distribution causing Sully's defence a number of problems. Just before the interval, an inswinging corner from Ben Pearce eluded everyone in the box and flew directly into the top corner.

After a rousing half-time team talk, the Imps came out looking like a different team and although losing one of their strikers, Callum Harding, to a head injury, started to pile the pressure on Sully with midfielders Izaak Farrag, Ashley Cottle, Jo Robinson, Ben Pearce and Kieran Ashton starting to take control of the game with good football and strong tackling.

The introduction of Sam Becks, Louis Burrows and Kieran Thomas showed just how strong the Imps' squad is and again they worked relentlessly to keep the pressure on Sully.



Pictured back row left to right: Kieran Thomas, Tom Dyball, Izaak Farrag, Sam Rees Davies, Jordan Williams, Ben Pearce, Ashley Cottle, Jacob Burgess. Front row left to right: Sam Becks, Kieran Ashton, Louis Burrows, Gage Waller, Callum Harding, Dan Morgan, Jo Robinson.

This workrate ensured the Imps strikeforce started to get more chances, with Dan Morgan working tirelessly to keep Sully's defence busy, and it wasn't long before the dangerous Jordan Williams powered his way through and finished superbly to give the Imps the lead.

In turn, Sully fought back which made the game open up and this worked in favour of the Imps, because following a quick counter-attack, Jordan Williams once again battled through the Sully players to make it 3-1 with another top class finish.

As all good sides would, Sully came back and pressed in the last 10 minutes, grabbing a second goal and setting up a very tense finale. However, the Imps showed great character and resolve to hold out and maintain their unbeaten run.

A spokesman for the Imps stated: "The lads have played superbly today against a very good team and have proved they deserve to be fighting for the league title. Also on behalf of the lads I'd like to say a big thank you to the parents and Ian James for kitting the lads out with new squad hoodies."

Scorpions are bitten by the Warrington Wolves

THE Super League opposition proved too good for South Wales Scorpions on Friday night as Warrington Wolves claimed a 28-10 friendly win at Cardiff Arms Park.

SOUTH WALES SCORPIONS	**10**
WARRINGTON WOLVES	**28**

Warrington, who fielded their best possible side available from players not involved in Millennium Magic, were a well-drilled outfit and gave the Scorpions a good test as the Welsh side prepare for their second season in the professional game.

It was Scorpions' first hit-out of 2011 and they gave a creditable performance as they fielded five debutants – Dafydd Carter, Tom Burnell, Chris Davies, Robin Lock and Tylan Mafi, the latter making his Scorpions' debut against his Uncle Mateaka's former club.

The first major chance to score came on 15 minutes when Warrington's Lee Mitchell was held up over the line. From the re-start, Ryan Shaw knocked on.

However, a minute later, the visitors took the lead after Tyrone McCarthy set up James Mendieka to go over in the corner. Gareth O'Brien converted.

They doubled their lead just before the half hour when Mitchell exploited a gap in the Scorpions' defence to run over. O'Brien goaled again.

Scorpions got on the board four minutes later. Ashley Bateman was just a metre away from scoring and was blocked and from the next play try-machine Steve Parry forced his way through. Loz Wildbore missed the kick.

Wolves addressed the balance when Jordan Burke was set up to dive over the line. O'Brien converted to give them an 18-4 lead at half-time.

Warrington extended their lead 10 minutes into the second half, when Liam Hulme burst through after Andrew Gay had stopped Tyrone McCarthy in his tracks. O'Brien missed the kick.

They almost scored again, but former Scorpion trialist Loren Quick was held up over the line.

It was the home side who was next on the board. They were given the chance when Rhys Evans fluffed a high ball on his own 20-metre line to give the Scorpions a chance they didn't waste. A couple of tackles later and Parry was running through for his and Scorpions' second. Wildbore kicked the extras.

With 10 minutes to go, Sam Caslick scored a try from short range with O'Brien converting and while both sides made attempts to score last ditch efforts, 10-28 was the final score.

The Scorpions now take on Valley Cougars in their second pre-season friendly on Sunday, February 20 at Nelson RFC (kick-off 2pm).

IAN GOLDEN

'Thank you' from netball club

LLANTWIT Netball Club would like to say a big 'thank you' to RAF St Athan netball club for coming to a recent training session to play a friendly.

Both teams are in the same league in Bridgend on a Thursday night, and competitive practice is always a bonus. However, it was also a great help to two senior players, Alison Harding and Nicola Fleig, who were being assessed by a qualified netball umpire as they work towards umpire qualification.

Llantwit netball club is now also holding a junior club for years 6 and 7 on a Wednesday night (5pm-6pm) all newcomers are most welcome.

NICOLA FLEIG

A DUNFORD FINISH BREAKS THE DEADLOCK

DINAS gave a first start to Cardiff City youth goalkeeper Reece Ottley, who just the day before had been training with their first team squad and having to make saves from Bothroyd, Bellamy, and Chopra.

Welsh League Division Two	
DINAS POWYS	**2**
AFC LLWYDCOED	**0**

Despite not having played a league game since mid-November, Dinas exploded out of the blocks in the first half, putting the visitors under sustained pressure without supplying the finish their dominance deserved.

With Jason Davies finding space on the right, Gareth Tedstone and Ollie Dalton should have done better, when well placed, converting at least one of his crosses. When Tedstone got past a defender on the left side of the area his angled shot hit the side netting.

Llwydcoed's first meaningful attack came in the 30th minute when Jonathan Mason did well on the left and made his way into the area, before putting in a dangerous cross with the Dinas defence grateful to Mike Hayward for clearing the ball for an unproductive corner.

Four minutes later, the visitors again looked dangerous when a right wing cross forced Dinas keeper Ottley to palm the ball from under his crossbar and over for a corner.

Dinas ended the half on the front foot but should have converted one of a number of chances they had in the first-half.

Llwydcoed won a little more possession at the start of the second-half without threatening the Dinas goal but with Ricki Morgan getting through a tremendous amount of work in midfield, the home side were soon back on top and they got their reward twelve minutes into the half.

The ball was won in midfield and when Gareth Tedstone found Ollie Dalton, his low cross into the area eluded a couple of defenders to reach Mark Dunford at the far post. He made no mistake from eight yards with a low shot to open the scoring.

A couple of minutes later, Ben Dimond's ball found Mark Dunford on the edge of the area, but his cross was deflected behind for a corner.

Tedstone had a chance to double the lead when a mistake in the visitors' defence left him with just the keeper to beat, but Jonathan Jones did well to save his effort.

The visitors' best chance of the game came when Tomos Morris received a throw and delivered an excellent low cross, but no teammate was able to get the finishing touch and the ball was cleared.

Dinas made the game safe six minutes from time. Again, they won the ball in midfield and an excellent pass found Gareth Tedstone and substitute Carl Huntley with only one defender to beat. Tedstone provided the pass and Huntley the finish with a low shot from 12 yards.

Dinas had chances to increase their lead when Jon Carpentier headed a free kick over the bar and Ollie Dalton shot wide of the post.

This was a deserved three points with Dave Penikett and Jon Carpentier dominating at the back, Ricki Morgan busy in midfield, and in the second-half Gareth Tedstone, Mark Dunford, and sub Carl Huntley looking dangerous up front.

Next week, Dinas face a stiffer test when they come up against second place Cwmaman Institute, but following their 3-0 defeat to table toppers Ton Pentre, this may be a good time to play them.

Squad: 1, Reece Ottley, 2, Rhodri Foote, 3, Ben Dimond, 4, Michael Hayward, 5, Dave Penikett, 6, Jon Carpentier, 7, Ricki Morgan, 8, Jason Davies, 9, Gareth Tedstone, 10, Mark Dunford, 11, Ollie Dalton. Subs: 12, Rhys Davies, 14, Stephen Provis, 15, Liam Jones. 16, Carl Huntley.

The next game is in the Welsh League Division Two on Saturday, February 19: Cwmaman Inst v Dinas Powys, kick-off 2pm.

For further news and fixtures see the club's web site: www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk

Sunday Saints produce a six-star performance

SAINTS stormed back to winning ways with a second half decimation that blew their previously undefeated opponents away.

Strikes from Jordan Mortimore, Leigh Lewis, Mark Pickering, Phil Morgan, and a brace from Dean Cleave sealed an impressive victory in the rain as Ton B failed to deal with the fluency and clinical nature of the Saints' attacks.

The first half was a cagey affair and chances were rare thing. Ton fired a free kick wide via a deflection, and Saints had James Austin lashing a stinging drive that the away keeper did well to push wide.

Saints caused problems with long throws but the ball didn't drop where they needed it too, but the ball finally dropped where Saints required it for the breakthrough.

Mortimore's throw into the box was headed up by the defender and dropped to Lewis, who took the ball past two defenders and his near post shot squirmed in and Saints had the lead.

Ton B hit back and Gareth Richards made two good stops to deny them before they fired another good chance narrowly wide.

Saints finished the half as they started it, with Austin showing some fancy foot work and a long range effort at the keeper.

In the second half, the Saints sprang into footballing life with neat and attractive play.

Some neat interplay between Reece Lewis and Nicky Cox fed the ball to Tony Charles, who worked the ball to Cleave and his ball over the top found Mortimore, who lifted the ball over the on-coming keeper to double the lead.

Saints were cruising now and enjoying themselves, with the ball being sprayed around with confidence. Mortimore's throw was laid off back to him by Austin and Mortimore's low pass across the six-yard box was met by Cleave who smashed it in.

Good work on the right by Reece Lewis, Mortimore and Leigh Lewis saw Lewis fire a cross into the box which was met by Mark Pickering, and his fierce drive was well saved by the keeper, but the loose ball was followed up by Pickering and he headed the ball into the net.

Saints kept their clean sheet after a break by Ton as their forward got past Richards, but he saw his effort cleared off the line by Alan Lawson.

Phil Morgan was on and with almost his first touch, was teed up by Mortimore but fired narrowly wide.

Saints were able to do as they pleased and Charles' exquisite through ball was run onto by Cleave who audaciously took the ball around the keeper, steadied himself and fired the ball low past the recovered keeper and hapless defender.

Morgan kept working away and got his reward after a Charles' ball to Mortimore saw him lay off to Morgan. Morgan skipped away from two defenders and stabbed the ball past the keeper and the rout was complete.

Ton B pulled back a consolation at the death with the final kick of the game after Lawson handled in the area and Ton B slotted away the penalty.

Saints were back to winning ways again after a recent blip in their season. This was a massive victory for Saints who inflicted the first defeat of Ton B's league season and remain top of the pile.

A fantastic team showing by Saints and honourable mentions to Mortimore, Lewis, Cleave, Pickering, Austin, and to the returning Gavin Morgans who was like a rock at the back with skipper Nicky Cox.

Man of the match was Tony Charles after completely running the show from centre midfield, showing enthusiasm and encouragement for his team and playing with great creativity.

Many thanks to Lafarge Cement (Aberthaw Works), The Kinsale Stone Company (Wales) Ltd for sponsorship of the team and to Roy and Cyndy at the Four Bells, St Athan for their continued support for the team.

Saints FC: G Richards, R Lewis (R Collings on 73 mins), A Lawson, N Cox (captain), G Morgans, T Charles, M Pickering (TJ Bowring on 73 mins), J Austin, D Cleave, L Lewis (P Morgan on 68 mins), J Mortimore. Subs: P Morgan, R Collings, TJ Bowring.

HD

BARRY SWIMMERS DO 'LENGTHS FOR LIFE' CHALLENGE

THIS year, Barry Amateur Swimming Club decided that the annual long distance postal swim would be a joint event, and took part in the 'Lengths for Life' event which ran through January.

This event raised money for the cancer unit at Llandough Hospital. It took place on Friday, January 28 for the girls and Friday, February 4, for the boys at Barry Leisure Centre.

The aim of the event is for swimmers to swim as many lengths of the 25-metre pool as possible in one hour, and it is also a good marker to see the year-on-year improvement of the swimmers. Club members, one coach and two parents took part in the event.

Ffion McCulloch (8) improved on last year's distance by 16 lengths, swimming a total of 2,350 metres (94 lengths of the pool). Katie Prynne (9) also had a vast improvement, swimming a distance of 2,300 metres, which is a massive 23 lengths.

Grace Insole (10) improved by 16 lengths, swimming a distance of 3,100 metres which is 124 lengths.

Elizabeth McCulloch (11) improved by 14 lengths, swimming 3,350 metres. Alex Hopkins (12) also improved by a massive 23 lengths, swimming a distance of 3,225 metres (129 lengths).

In the boys' swim, Tom Insole (8) swam 2,250 metres, which is a fantastic improvement of 17 lengths on last year's swim. Luke Birnage (9) swam a distance of 2,650 metres, an improvement of 15 lengths, while Jonathan Haggett (15) improved by 10 lengths to swim a distance of 3,150 metres.

Youngest swimmer to take part was Ben Ewington (6) and he swam a fantastic 74 lengths which is 1,850 metres; this is such an achievement, well done.

Coach Mark Currie swam a distance of 2,800 metres but not to be shown up, Jack Parry (11) swam a distance of 2,925 metres, an improvement on last year by 10 lengths.

Mum Clare Parry, who swims for Cardiff Masters, swam an impressive 149 lengths, while father and son swimmers Ryan (11) and Shaun Connor swam 125 lengths and 141 lengths respectively.

Swimming her last event at Barry Amateur Swimming Club was Lauren Williamson, who is emigrating to Australia. Lauren (13) swam a distance of 4,175 metres. She has been a member of the club for such a long time and has broken many club records and also swam with the Welsh development team. We wish Lauren and her family good luck and hope that they stay in touch with the club.

A big thank you must go to everyone who helped with this event to make it so successful. Without everyone's help this and many more events in the club could not be run.

Barry Amateur Swimming Club is always looking for new members to join the club so if you would like a trial, please phone Mrs Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784; we swim at Barry Leisure Centre and Cardiff International Pool.

For more information please also look on the Barry Amateur Swimming Club website.

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Engineering skill and customer care is key at the Heritage Business Park

by PHILIP IRWIN



Father and son, Chris and Tom Pope of CP Motors, .



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SOME trading estates can be a little confusing, with many different businesses offering a perplexing variety of goods and services.

However, at the Heritage Business Park, just off Wick Road near Llantwit Major, you know where you are because the common factor – with just one notable exception – in all the businesses is the motor vehicle.

Even then, that one exception is an engineering company that has been there for 20 years, serving the Vale and Cardiff.

Let's talk about the 'odd one out' first, because Lyn Llewellyn has been in the metal fabrication business on this site for 20 years.

He specialises in gates, railings and fire escapes, doing large-scale work for councils and other business clients, and also working with individual customers to meet their needs.

He also supplies security devices that can secure the gates on a family home or building – something in demand at the moment after recent thefts, due to the high price of scrap metal at the moment.

Looking elsewhere on the estate, it's a one-stop 'shop' – dedicated to keeping your car or van running smoothly for a reasonable price.



Lyn Llewellyn - proprietor and Lee Jones - foreman, of LDL Engineering

Although it is just a signpost off the heritage coast road, the breadth of services on offer has resulted in many of the traders having regular customers from as far afield as Barry, Pencoed or Bridgend.

Simon King of SK Autos, for instance, has had plenty of time to build up a customer base, as he opened on the estate in 1988.

He told The GEM: "We can deal with any aspect of motor maintenance, from general servicing, diagnostics, and on to conducting MoTs."

Traders on the estate pride themselves on offering personal service, and Simon is no exception, as he offers a collection and delivery service for his customers as well.

Over at Good as New, Tristan Greedy's area of expertise is bodywork – from minor bumps right through to major accident repairs.

He has been on the estate for seven years and said: "We can handle all types of work, from a wheel refurbishment, which is much in demand, to welding, and a full respray."

Chris Pope, at CP Motor Services, has been on the estate for just two years, but he is hardly a newcomer to the trade.

In fact, he retired at 50 after 30 years as an AA patrolman. However, he soon felt the urge to get involved with motor vehicles again, and now he runs CP Motors as a father and son business, with his son Tom, and employee John.

He said; "We do all types of motor maintenance work, including diagnostics, and we also do pre-MoT work, although we are not an MoT station."



Simon King of SK Autos

Moving away from the mechanical side, the Llantwit Valet Centre, which is celebrating its first year on site, is dedicated to looking after its customers' cars and sending them away with a showroom shine.

The newest business on the estate, Llantwit Cars, is run by Simon Myers, and it is currently operating two cars and a minibus, primarily in the Llantwit Major area, although Simon goes further afield for quite a few clients.

The business also picks up and takes travellers to the airport – and not just Cardiff!

Simon said: "I have regular customers who find a drop-off and pick-up service to Bristol is well worth it, and we travel to Heathrow and Stansted too!"

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Cowbridge lose unbeaten home record in last minute

THESE two evenly-matched teams met in terrible conditions and still managed to provide an entertaining game with a nail biting finish.

Conditions underfoot were wet and muddy, which did not suit the smaller but quicker Cowbridge forwards, who found themselves on the back foot for much of the match.

Cowbridge under-12s 5 v CRICC 10

The Cowbridge defence, which has been outstanding all season, repelled the continual drives from the CRICC forwards, with brave tackling from Tom Edwards, Harrison Stevens and Charles Archer keeping their opponents at bay.

In the loose, Will Couzins, Sam John and Matthew Keating were prominent for the home side, who eventually opened the scoring when number eight Dan Bunney burst through the CRICC defence to score a fine try. CRICC hit back just before half time with a well taken try of their own to level the scores.

At the start of the second half, second row James Waters came on as a replacement for Cowbridge and for the first 10 minutes the game swung back and forth, with neither side able to penetrate the tight defences. However, the bigger and heavier CRICC forwards soon began to dominate as conditions worsened, but were unable to use their possession to threaten the Cowbridge line.

It seemed that a draw was inevitable until, from the last move of the game, CRICC gathered a loose ball near the line to score the winning try, and become the first team to beat Cowbridge at home this season. Although the home team were without a number of players, and started with a heavily depleted squad, all 16 players are to be commended for an excellent performance.

ML

Under-8s 'enjoy' two close games in Arctic conditions!

COWBRIDGE under-8s played Rumney in two games at Riverside Park in driving cold rain.

The weather conditions also affected the writer's notes, so apologies are offered to the try scorers and team members not mentioned.

In the first game, Cowbridge played the better rugby and numerous passing movements led to them scoring eight tries. Ellis Howell deserves special mention for his contribution of three.

However, Rumney's long range approach led them to score nine tries.

Team: Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Sam Coates, Catrin Evans, Ben Farrell, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Owen Godsall, Harry Holtam, Ellis Howell, Tom Johnson and McKinley Parsons

In the second game, Cowbridge's passing movements were much improved but defensive frailties were the team's Achilles'heel.

It might be that the quite robust tactics of some of the Rumney players, to run through their opponents rather than around them, took the Cowbridge boys by surprise!

It was a close game, with Rumney running out 7-6 winners with a try in the last move of the game. The highlight from Cowbridge's perspective was the general all-round play of Ioan Davies and Oliver Jarmaine.

Thanks are offered to the scrupulously fair Rumney referee. There can be no doubt that the conditions affected all the boys, particularly those who had to wait to play in the second game.

Team: Ioan Davies, Owen Godsall, Ellis Greenwood, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarmaine, Aled Leitch, Harry Whittaker and Dewi Williams.

Under-7s brave the elements

TORRENTIAL rain driven by an Arctic wind greeted the 12 brave Cowbridge under-7s who made the trip into Cardiff for the match against Rumney at their Riverside ground.

It was a delight to see two teams play the game with such a fine level of skill, enthusiasm and sportsmanship, despite the dreadful conditions.

With many of the squad preferring the comforts of the fireside, there was plenty of pitch time for all.

Tries were traded evenly, although Cowbridge had the sharper attack. Iolo Davies galloped over for the first try followed by Rhydian Williams, Will Harris and Finlay Sullivan.

Ethan Francis was a one-man tagging team and ensured that enough pressure was put on the Rumney boys to give the impressive Cowbridge attack something to aim at.

The second half saw Evan Davies and Rhydian Williams take control of the game with long passing movements and a fine running game, ably supported by the rest of the boys as they ran in four tries apiece to take the result from an impressive Rumney team by 11 tries to 9.

A great advert for mini rugby despite the terrible conditions, and all played in a great spirit.

Squad :- Tom Brennan, Robbie Brown, Evan Davies, Iolo Davies, Ethan Francis, Will Harries, James Jones, Archie Lloyd, Will Ryan, Finlay Sullivan, Luke Treadwell, Rhydian Williams.

Under-12s triumph in thriller

TOP of the table under-12 sides Cowbridge A and Dinas Powys played in a game that was a thriller and a real advert for junior football.

The game started with Dinas applying early pressure. Tom Williams and Duncan Ace were immense dealing with the high balls into the box, while George Day constantly snuffed out the dangerous threat of Luke Davidson, the Dinas left winger.

Being team mates last year at Bristol City, they knew each other well and it was a ferocious but fair encounter.

For the first 15 minutes, Cowbridge absorbed the pressure as Dinas came with attack after attack, and Thomas Bainbridge Glover, making his debut in goal, was top class.

On 20 minutes, manager Steve Day changed the formation, switching to 3-4-3, with Sean Davies and Sammy Lee joining Harrison Stevens up front. Harrison went close, one-on-one with the 'keeper but just slotted wide, before David Bear, pushing forward from midfield, pinged one home to take it to half-time at 1-0.

In the second half, Dinas soon got an equaliser from a goal mouth scramble.

Then, against the run of play, Dinas scored after a mix-up between Davies and Day taking a free kick on the edge of the Dinas penalty box! They lost the ball between them and Davidson for Dinas broke free to whip the ball into the box for a great finish by their striker.

Soon after, Davies and Day repaid the team for their earlier mistake, with Day winning the ball off Davidson and slotting a great ball through to Davies to go on and beat the Dinas 'keeper to level. I'm sure at this stage both managers would have settled for a point, but there was to be one last twist.

Harrison Stevens had not forgotten his earlier miss in the first half when one-on-one with the 'keeper. David Bear slotted a great ball through to Stevens, who charged down on goal leaving the Dinas defenders in his wake to smash the ball into the back of the net! There was euphoria on the sidelines as the large Cowbridge support went wild. The team still had a job to do, with 10 minutes of the game remaining.

Dinas pressed but the Cowbridge defence were fully in control, backed up by a superb holding midfield, and by surging runs by Sammy Lee and Sean Davies.

Thomas Bainbridge Glover stole the man of the match performance with a great diving save to his right in the last minute.

Cowbridge 3 Dinas Powys 2. A great game of football by both teams and a pure delight to watch. Well done to both teams.

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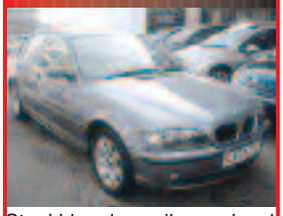
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VITAL VICTORY, BUT WALES KNOW ONE SWALLOW DOESN'T MAKE A SUMMER

– as the search goes on for consistency...

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

THE cautious response of under-fire Wales head coach Warren Gatland was in stark contrast to Welsh supporters' unrestrained euphoria, following the 24-6 victory over Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday.

Both post-match reactions were understandable. For success-starved fans who had feared the worst after the 19-26 loss to England the previous week, there was a huge collective sigh of relief that the long dark run of defeats had at last ended, with hope reborn that Welsh rugby's star was about to rise again.

However, the phlegmatic Kiwi sought to cool jubilant fans' over-wild expectations by observing that… "*the team had played better against England…the performance needs to improve, but Saturday's result was good***".**

Admittedly, he did add on a warmer note… "*I thought we were clinical today, defended well, and thoroughly deserved to win***"… but the underlying message was nevertheless clear – there is much yet to do before it can be said that his long under-achieving Wales side has truly turned the corner.**

Gatland and his coaching staff know full well that the win, though absolutely crucial to rebuilding the players' lost confidence, was achieved against a woeful Scottish team that totally failed to deliver the performance expected of the pre-match favourites, particularly after their lively three-try showing against France just one week before.

On the contrary, it was Wales, written off by most of the media pundits beforehand, who impressively charged out of the starting blocks for this 115th clash – racing into a 16-0 lead within 20 minutes, spearheaded by James Hook, the proud new occupant of No 10.

First he lanced through the defence before handing on to the supporting Shane Williams for a try, which Hook easily converted and then added three penalties as the Scots recoiled in shock from the unexpected onslaught.

They were only able to reply with a penalty kick by Blues pivot Dan Parks, despite the fact that Wales were reduced to 13 men when both Bradley Davies and Lee Byrne spent ten minutes in the 'sin-bin'.

This huge defensive display, which must have warmed the cockles of defence coach Shaun Edwards' heart, dominated a dour anti-climactic second half as Scotland stepped up their efforts, but still only managed a second penalty by the hapless Parks, who had an international match to forget.

(Ironically, down the road his chief rival for the Blues outside half shirt, Ceri Sweeney, played a starring role for the Cardiff-based region with seven impeccable penalty kicks in the 26-15 Magners League win over Glasgow Warriors).

Meanwhile, Hook kept the scoreboard ticking over with two more penalties, before being replaced by Stephen Jones on 65 minutes.

Four minutes later, that man Shane Williams sealed the victory by romping over for his 53rd record-breaking try, after a clever chip through by Jonathan Davies, who with co-centre Jamie Roberts had been at the heart of the midfield heroics.

The latter said afterwards that the team would not be letting the win "*go to our heads***" as they now look forward to a Rome date with Italy next week, mindful of how near the Azurri came to a shock result at home to Ireland, who in turn ran the French so close with a 25-22 nailbiter in Dublin on Sunday.**

On the other hand, Wales will surely be motivated not only by the Murrayfield result, but by England's 59-13 trouncing of the Italians at Twickenham.

With the confidence gained from a superb pack performance against the Scottish eight, and growing self-belief among richly-talented backs led by Hook, Rome should hold no fears for a Welsh side determined to prove wrong certain English media pundits such as Paul Ackford, who have dismissively asserted that they are "rubbish".

(They seemingly forget that "rubbish" or not, only a converted try separated the two sides at the final whistle in Cardiff!)

More importantly, Gatland's top priority continues to be the drive for consistency and he will also be anxious to keep his team focused on the far bigger picture beyond the Six Nations – ie Rugby World Cup 2011.

The Ath under-13s thank sponsor for his support



BRIDGEND Athletic RFC under-13s are pictured with sponsor, Mr Chris Mordecai of Pen-y-Bont Financial Services.

The whole squad would like to thank Chris for his support.

A LATE TRY WINS THE GAME FOR PORTHCAWL

PORTHCAWL won this Friday night fixture, pleased not only with the win but with the encouraging improved standard of play.

PORTHCAWL RFC	**18**
ABERCRAVE	**15**

However, it was Abercrave who started the scoring first. After following up a speculative chip ahead, they took advantage of a freakish bounce of the ball, which wrong-footed the Porthcawl defence, enabling their centre to cross between the posts to score a converted try.

Porthcawl then ran the ball back at the away side and after good handling were awarded a penalty, converted by Nathan Townley. This was soon added to by a penalty kick, again from Townley.

Both sides tried to run the ball in the wet conditions and despite some good tackles, particularly from Porthcawl's stand-in captain Jon Rimmer, Abercrave managed to gain a converted penalty kick to take the scores at half time to 10-6 in their favour.

From the kick-off, both sides used the ball well and several try-scoring chances were created by both sides, only to be thwarted by last-ditch defence.

However, the deadlock was soon broken by an unconverted try wide out by Abercrave after some sustained pressure on the Porthcawl line.

Porthcawl's response was to pressurise the restart and try to gain possession in the Abercrave half. This they did, and from some deft handling from the back line, full-back Ben Clarke scampered over unopposed to score an unconverted try.

This took the score to 11-15 with both sides playing an expansive game to try to score the match winning points.

Then, cometh the hour cometh the man, in the form of Tevita Manaseitava, who took a simple scissors movement from Townley and crashed over the try line taking three defenders with him. Townley added the extra points to give the winning three-point margin.

Porthcawl RFC are hoping to be able to re-register a youth team for next season, building on their successful under-16s side. In order to hit the start of next season running, they are looking to play a Youth fixture or two towards the end of this season against a similarly young team.

Any teams interested should call team manager Paul Brown on 07875 349876. Previous members of Porthcawl Youth have been Tom Prydie and Ryan Bevington, (Welsh 6 Nations squad), Ricky Thomas, (Wales Sevens squad) and from the girls' section, Shona Powell Hughes who has represented the Welsh women's team.

Any young players who would like to represent Porthcawl RFC should telephone Paul Brown to register their interest.

Bryncethin overhaul early police lead

South Wales Police RFC 7 v Bryncethin RFC 12

SOUTH Wales Police RFC welcomed Bryncethin to Waterton Cross for this rearranged fixture and started at a fast pace.

The Police backs looked to attack at every opportunity given, and after some good play from lock Calum Rogers and prop Cory Evans, constant pressure saw No. 8 James Davies force his way over. The in-form Ryan Miles slotted over the extra two points.

Bryncethin were now picking up the pace of the game and looked dangerous with ball in hand, their bigger pack were making good drives to put the Police under constant pressure.

For the Police, the work rate of Karl Davies, Calum Rogers and Gary Money in the loose was brilliant.

However, it was only a matter of time before Bryncethin hit back with a well deserved try. The conversion just missed.

The Police still pressured the Bryncethin line, with the centre partnership of Wil Alson and Miles looking dangerous, and outside half Craig Davies looked to attack where possible and put runners into space.

The Police had a chance to increase their lead, but a well-struck penalty from Miles hit the upright.

With only minutes remaining, and with the Police under constant pressure, Bryncethin went over for a try which was well converted.

The Police will review this game and look at missed opportunities, and poor decision making. They must learn how to close a game down and hold on to a lead that they deserved.

Prominent for the Police were Chris Price, Lee Roderick, Sean Ellis and Stuart Elson.

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